BAKEMONOGATARI
7
OH!GREAT
ORIGINAL STORY:
NISIOISIN
ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

NADEKO SNAKE

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

7

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

MAIN CHARACTERS

Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's classmate, who was once bewitched by a "cat." She denies it, but she's a class president among class presidents who knows everything.

Suruga Kanbaru

A girl who made a wish to a "monkey." Though the aberration ended up remaining in her left arm, Koyomi and Hitagi were able to work to make her wish come half-true.

Hitagi Senjogahara

A girl whose weight was once stolen by a "crab." Suruga has been her junior ever since middle school, and the two have now reconciled.

Koyomi Araragi

A boy who was attacked by a vampire. After that attack, he was saved by Mèmè and is sometimes asked to perform tasks to pay off the large debt he owes as a result.

Nadeko Sengoku

Classmates with Tsukihi, Koyomi's youngest sister. Koyomi and Suruga happen to cross paths with her as they head through the mountains to a shrine.

Mèmè Oshino

An expert on aberrations who Koyomi relies on whenever he has a problem. He makes the ruins of a former cram school his home.

Suruga Kanbaru's love for Hitagi Senjogahara caused her to become jealous of Hitagi's boyfriend, Koyomi Araragi, driving her to make a wish to a "monkey's paw." Though it took a helping hand from Mèmè Oshino and Hitagi, Koyomi made Kanbaru's wish come half-true, successfully putting the situation to rest. Koyomi took a beating in the process, and though not fully recovered, he finds relief in the fact that his relationship with Suruga has been mended. However, not long after this, the sense of serenity that Koyomi was feeling is shattered when he visits a shrine with Suruga and witnesses a gruesome scene. On the way there, the two passed by the girl known as Nadeko Sengoku. Could this be her doing...?

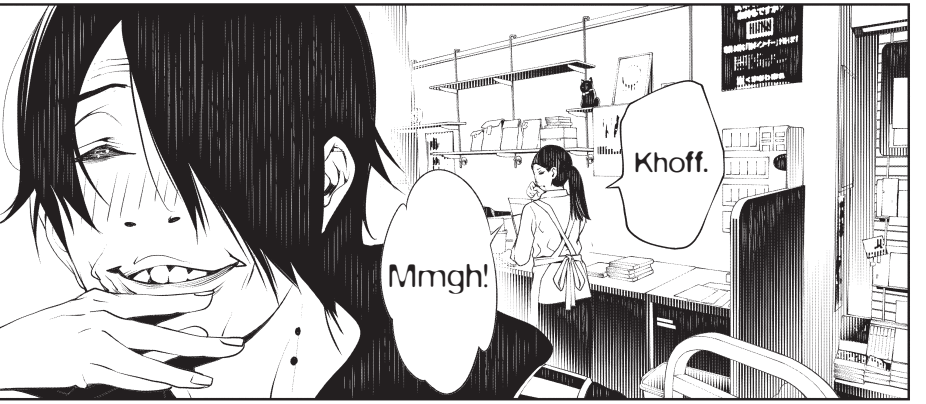
Chapter 4
Nadeko Snake
BOOK DESIGN
VEIA

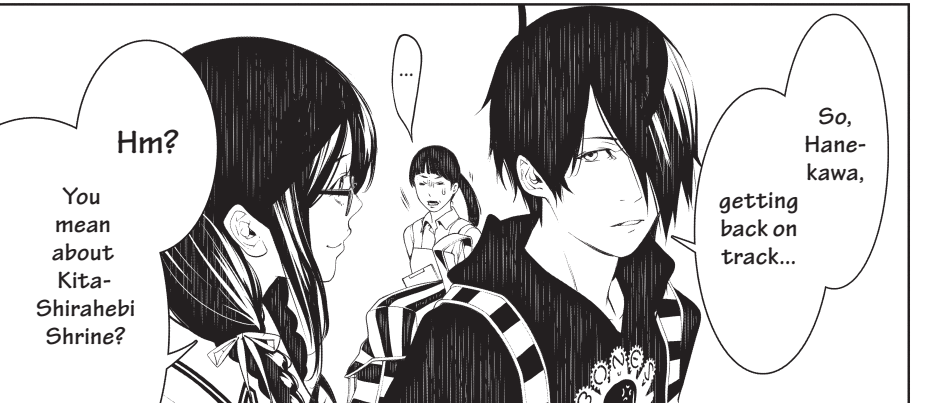
So you feel like going to university now, Araragi?
2019
JAPANESE
JAPANESE
Comprehensive Checkup
Frequent English Grammar Questions Final Check Workbook
Biology
The Essence of Physics

My apologies to whoever wrote the book you're holding,
but all it really does is tell you to memorize things.
Grammar
Final Check
Er... I don't know about going, but I figured I'd at least try...
Oh.
I think this book would be better than that one.
BOING
Comprehensive Checkup
Frequent English Grammar Questions Final Check Workbook
Brute force!!
National University Entrance Exam Workbook
English

Hm? Are you the type that only looks at a book's spine when shopping?
...putting them *there* when you show them to me?
Why is it that you keep on taking the front covers of books and...
Hane-kawa ...
SHUT
Okay.
This one?
BOING
So...she really doesn't realize what she's doing...
Hane-kawa!
Could I take a look at that book?
BOING ぽよん
BOING ぽよん
BOING ぽよん

That one over there, too.
No. Actually, that one over there.
THIS ONE?
That one seems interesting, too.
No, think I'll go with that one, after all.
OKAY.
OKAY.
YOU READ BOOKS LIKE THIS? WOW, ARARAGI! YOU'RE REALLY INTO THIS STUFF!
BOING
ぽよん


Khoff.
Mmgh!

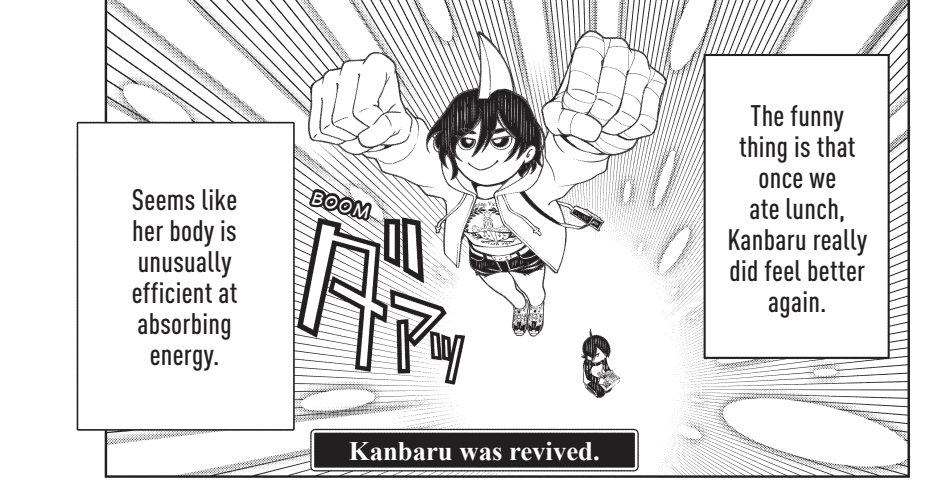

So, Hanekawa, getting back on track...
...
Hm?
You mean about Kita-Shirahebi Shrine?

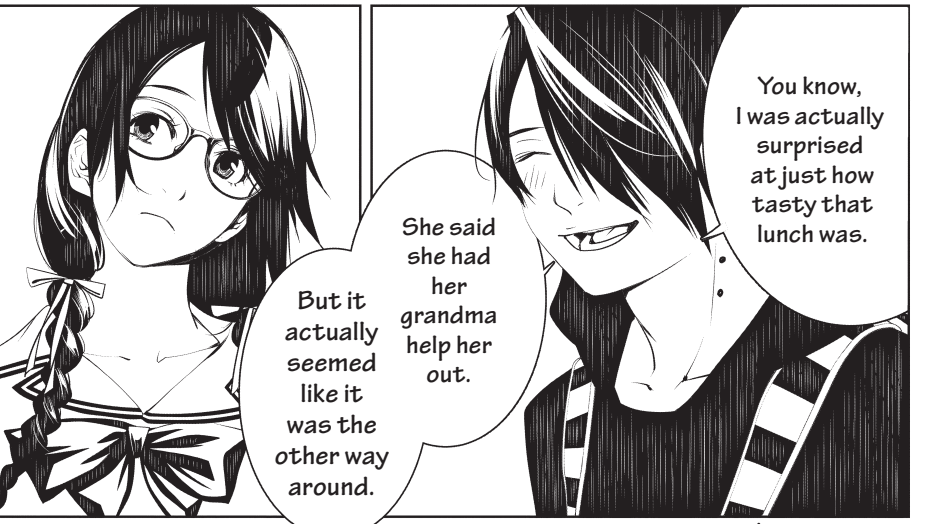
Yeah… I guess you could say it gave me the chills—killing snakes that way like it's some kind of ritual or something…
Well, no… I'm pretty sure it was a ritual, but…
Problems Organized by Level
Math I/A/II/B
Get into popular national universities!!

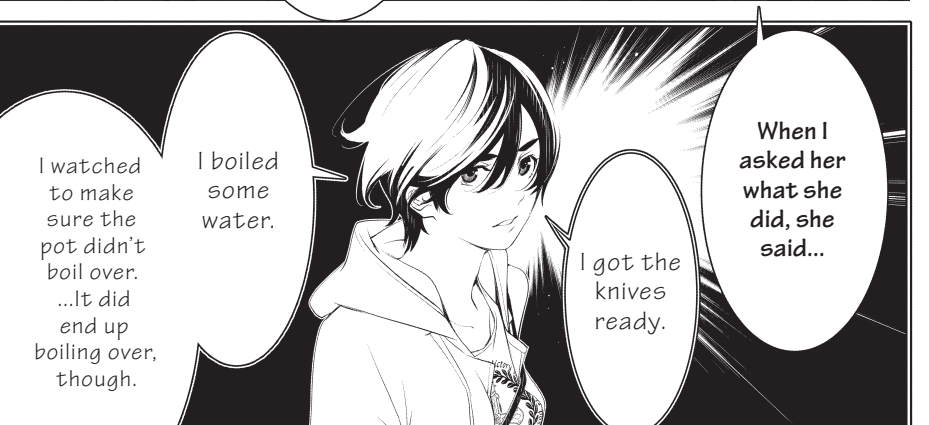
…
Lunch.

Yeah.
The lunches Kanbaru made.

but then it also felt like I shouldn't be touching them…so we ended up just going down the mountain and eating lunch.
I felt bad about just leaving them there, so I thought I'd bury them,

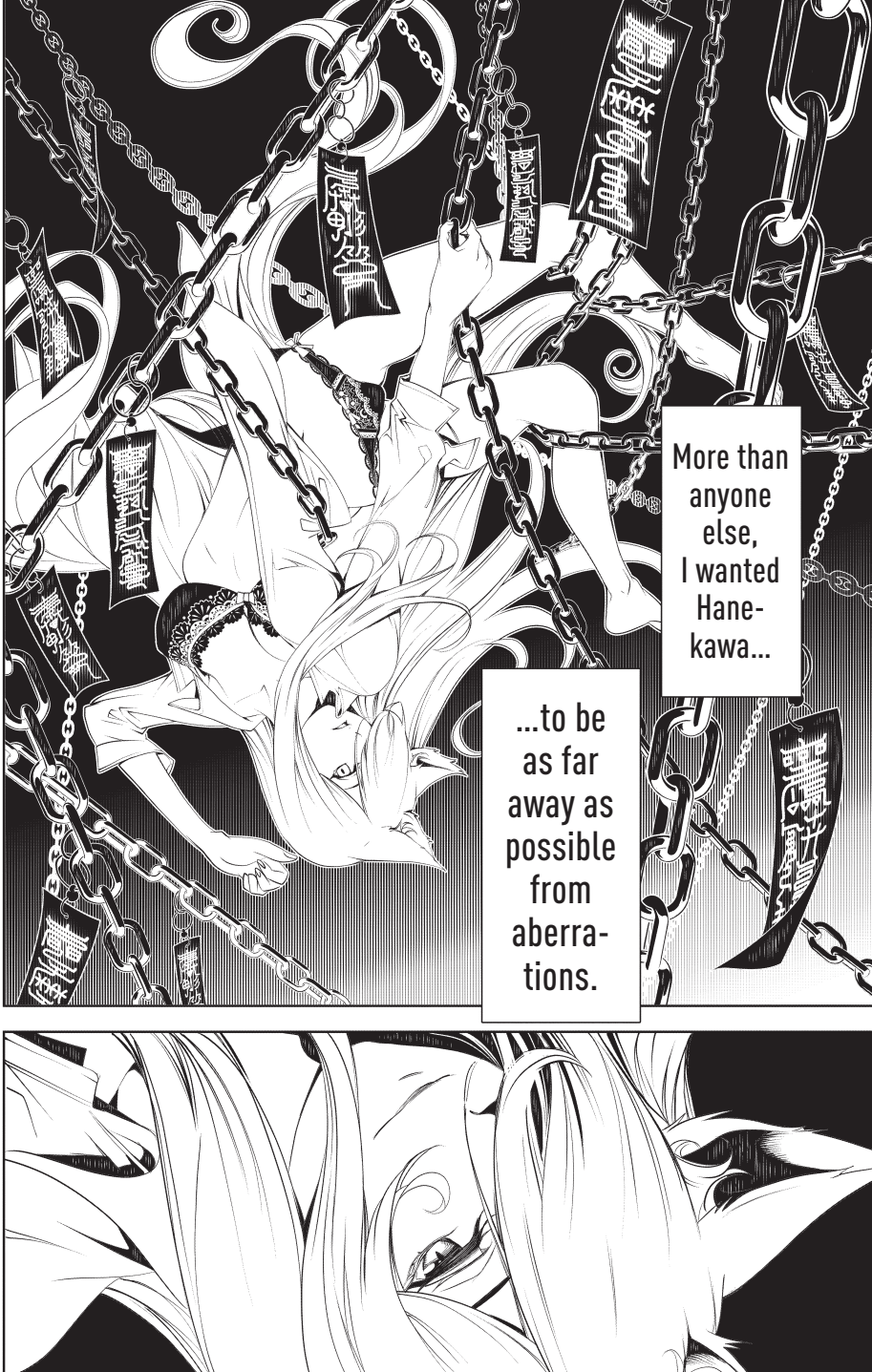

Seems like her body is unusually efficient at absorbing energy.
BOOM
カッ
The funny thing is that once we ate lunch, Kanbaru really did feel better again.
Kanbaru was revived.


You know, I was actually surprised at just how tasty that lunch was.
She said she had her grandma help her out.
But it actually seemed like it was the other way around.


When I asked her what she did, she said...
I got the knives ready.
I boiled some water.
I watched to make sure the pot didn't boil over. ...It did end up boiling over, though.

Want-ing to be a good cook ...
...when she's already a star athlete with good grades is a bit greedy, huh.
...
...
Hm ?
—Still, it really is too bad about Kanbaru... If not for her arm injury...
...she'd be smack in the middle of a tournament right now. They were saying the team might be able to go far this year.
Oh.
Well...

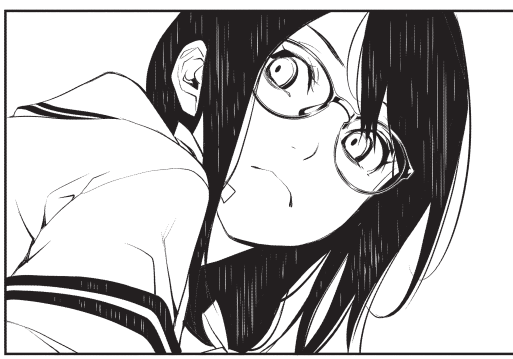
Ah. Almost forgot.
...Yeah.
...You're ...right.
Hanekawa doesn't know about Kanbaru's aberration. I didn't even tell her about that.
I didn't want to talk to Hanekawa... about aberrations.
But even more than that ...
It was a personal issue for Kanbaru—which was, of course, part of the reason why I didn't say anything.


More than anyone else, I wanted Hane-kawa...
...to be as far away as possible from aberra-tions.

But I want to protect Hanekawa.
And I want to be even closer to her as I do.

English Composition
Super Training
ANYONE CAN DO IT
ENGLISH GRAMMAR WORKBOOK

... aberrations...
Speaking of...
ANYONE CAN DO IT ENGLISH GRAMMAR WORKBOOK
LEVEL Math for Science Students



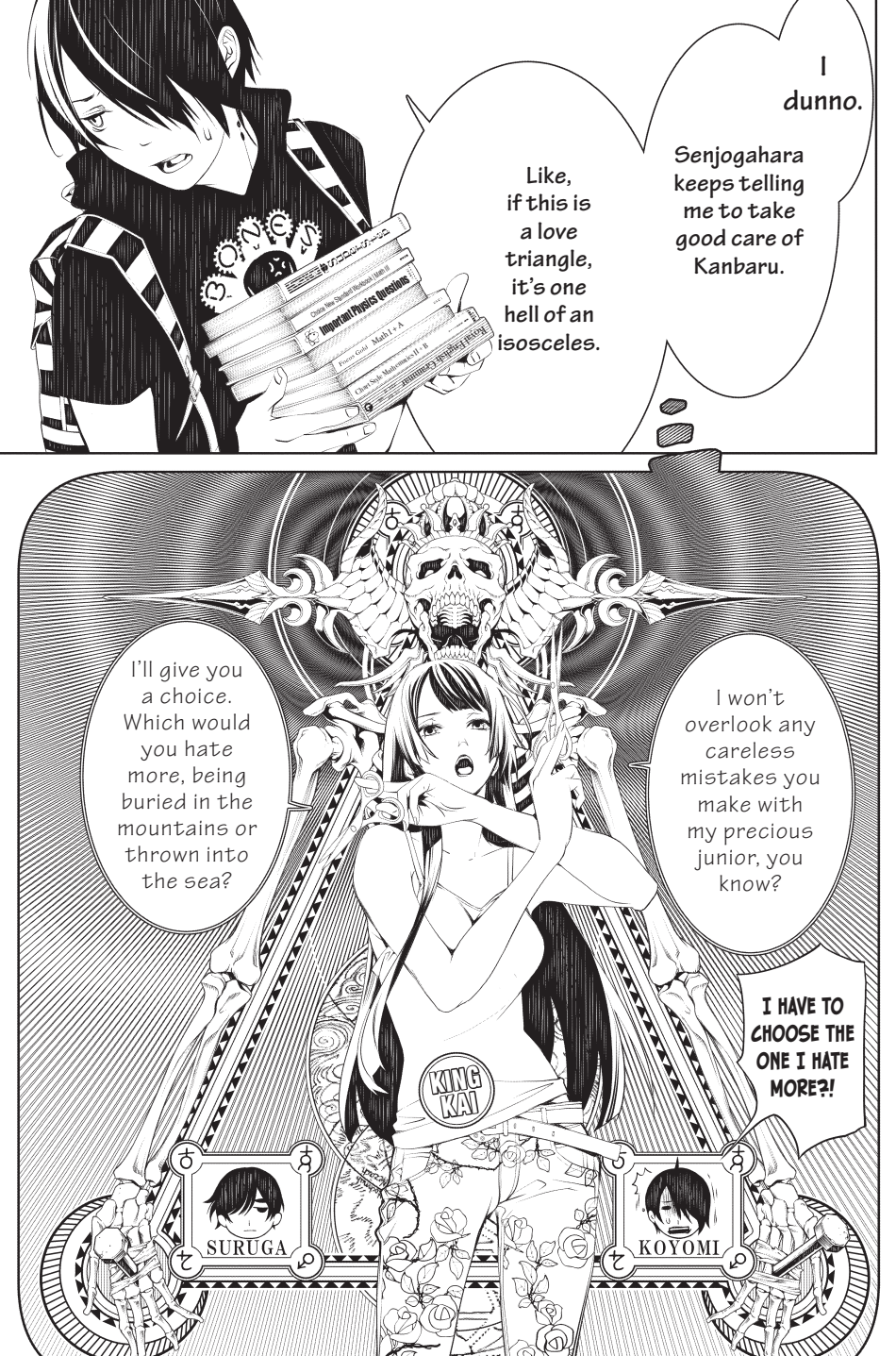
Bh-hgh ?!
Mmgh!
Koff! Koff koff!!

No...
And was she also responsible for all those talismans nailed to the tree...?
Nadeko Sengoku... Did she kill those snakes?
If anything, it's more likely she'd jump up and run away at the sight of one, right...?
I just can't see a girl her age killing snakes.
Putting the talismans aside...
I guess...
for now, I should let Oshino know about this...
I hope I'm just over-thinking things, but...

What happened with Kanbaru must have been a handful.
That's what I've been saying.
—Are you listening to me, Araragi?
Huh?
...
O-Oh, yeah... She suddenly started feeling bad, and...
That's.
What.
Not.
I mean.
What happened. With. Kanbaru. Must have been a handful!

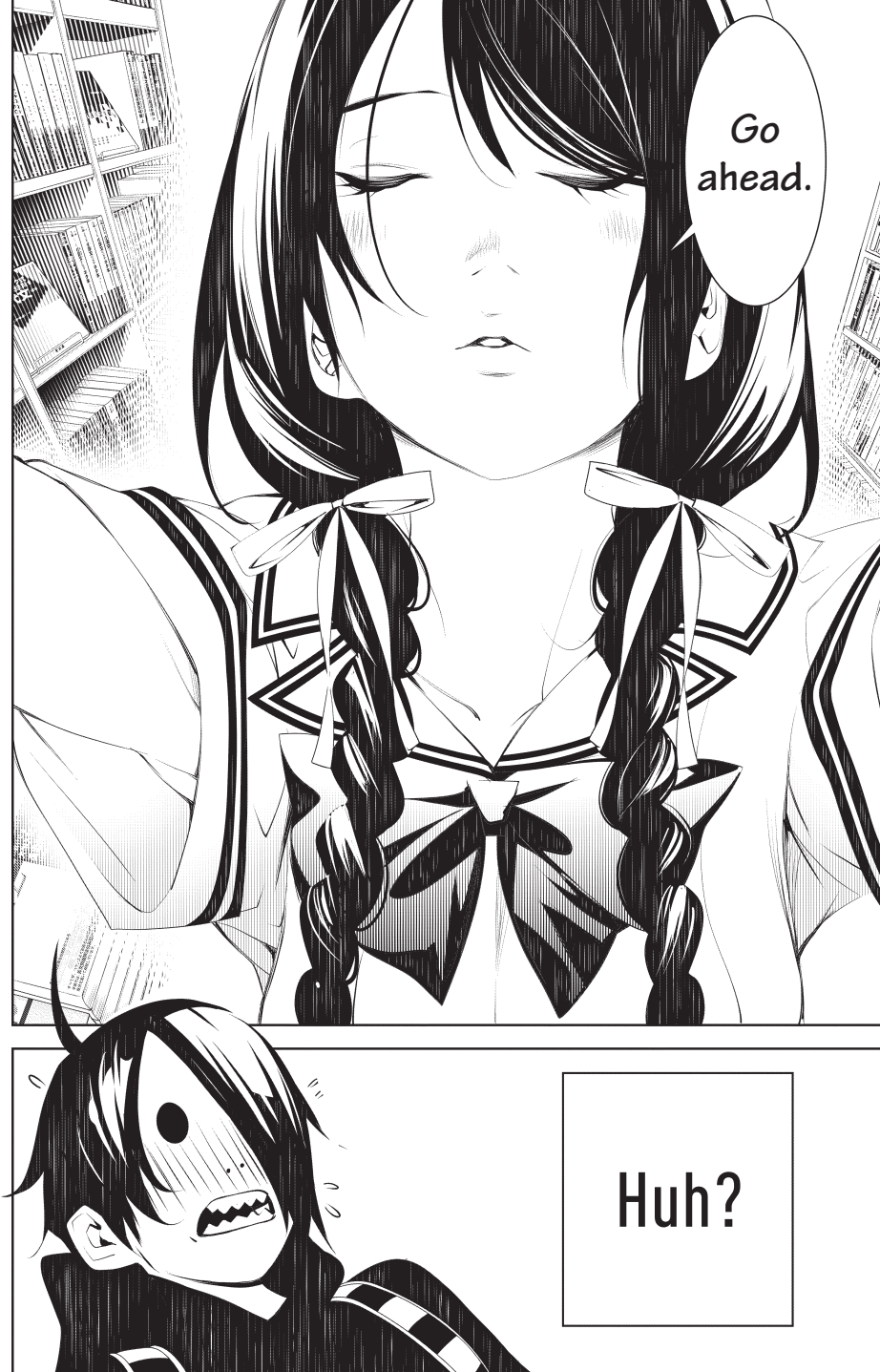
...It seems like I need to be worrying about myself...
...
COMPLETE PHYSICS BASICS
You shouldn't be linking arms with her, should you?!
Araragi! Do you not see a problem with being a little too friendly with your girlfriend's junior?!
Hey! Where're you going?
Do you think that passes as an excuse? I understand being happy to have a cute little junior...
ADULT CORNER
18
No one under 18 past this point
What was I supposed to do? She's a friendly girl.

MMF!
TREMBLE
You perv.
...
Oh, wait... Could it be that you enjoyed how Kanbaru's breast felt against your arm?
Just because she wants someone to give her support doesn't mean that you should be supporting her breasts, Araragi.
You're absolutely right...
...
I'm sure that Kanbaru is feeling insecure right now.
She must have wanted to keep playing on the team. But you know what?


I dunno.
Senjogahara keeps telling me to take good care of Kanbaru.
Like, if this is a love triangle, it's one hell of an isosceles.
Important Physics Revisions
I'll give you a choice. Which would you hate more, being buried in the mountains or thrown into the sea?
I won't overlook any careless mistakes you make with my precious junior, you know?
I HAVE TO CHOOSE THE ONE I HATE MORE?!
KING KAI
SURUGA
KOYOMI

Right.
…
The part I don't get here—is Senjo-gahara.
She's that jealous a woman, and yet she approves of my relation-ship with Kanbaru—or rather…
It's almost like…she's actively trying to make us interact.
…I wonder. What could she…
…be think-ing?

Well ...
Okay.
...
Huh ?
Maybe some-thing like this.
WH... WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HANE-KAWA?! UM—
YOU'RE REALLY CLOSE —!
Huh? What? What ?!
What's going on?!

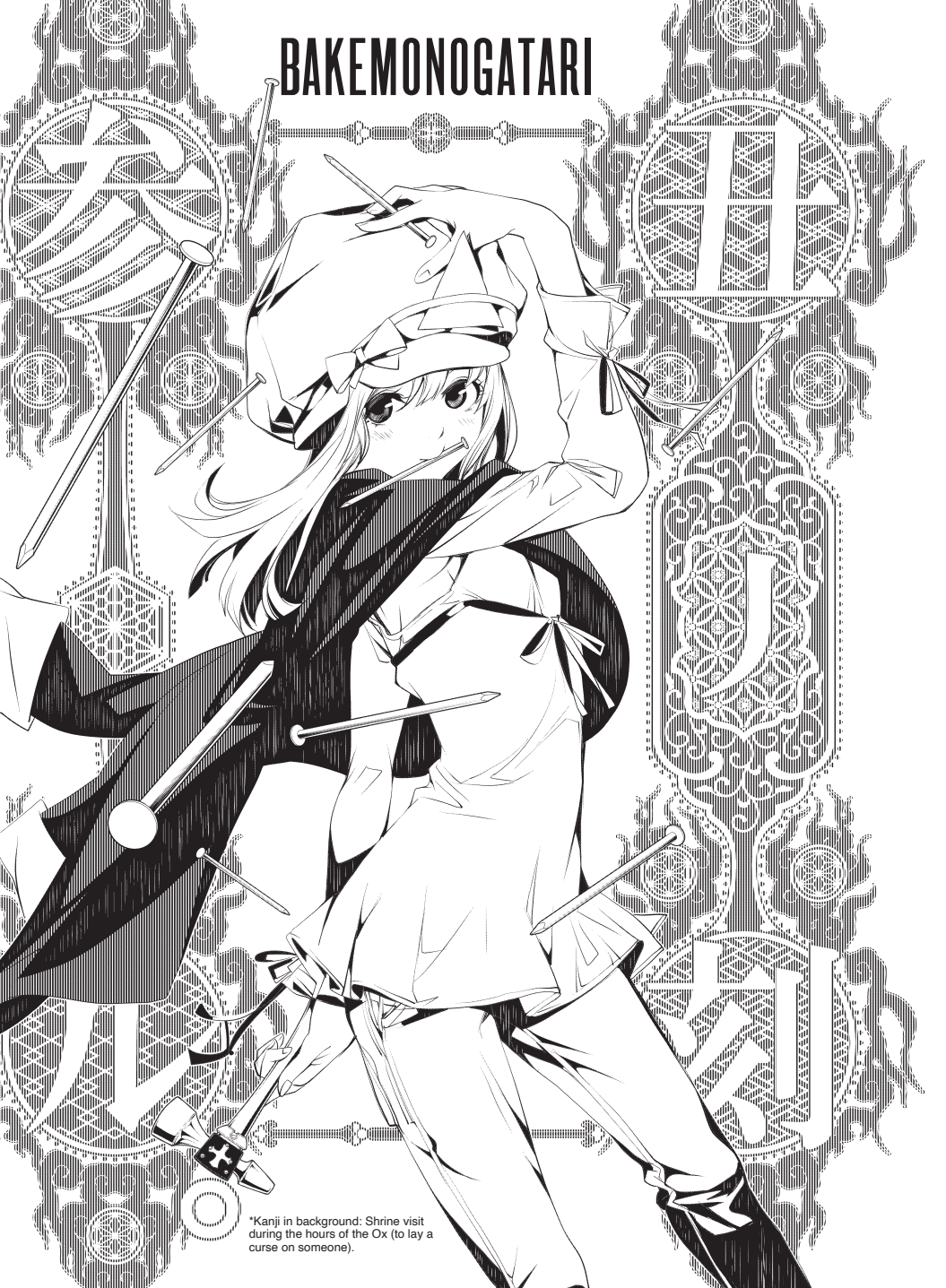

Go ahead.
Huh?

Go...Go ahead...? Hane-kawa? Um...
Her eyelids... are trembling... And her breasts... Her heart...
TH-THMP
TH-THMP
TH-THMP
THMP
SQUEEZE
I have a girlfriend, and her name is Senjo-gahara—
Hane-kawa... I-I have...
Hane-kawa!

...
Mgh!
—!!

—Something like that.
Nadeko…
Sengoku…?
Heh heh.

BAKEMONOGATARI



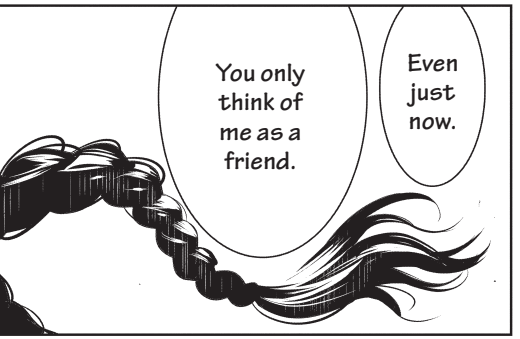
*Kanji in background: Shrine visit during the hours of the Ox (to lay a curse on someone).

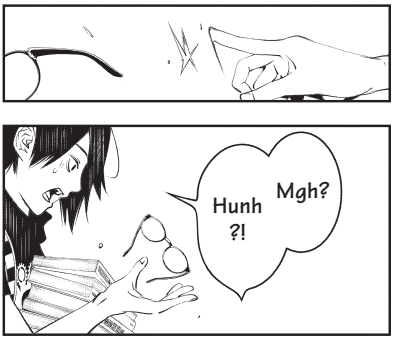
Wha ?
...?
Hm?
See ?
I assume it's something like that, Araragi.
That's how Senjo-gahara feels.
It's why she's trying to make you and Kanbaru get along, and why she's not objecting to the two of us being together after school like this.

...
Uhh... Umm...
So she's testing me...?
Is that what you're saying?
Because you're weak-willed and flimsy, Araragi.
FLAP
FLAP
BOOBIES! BOOBIES!
AHA
AHA
AHAHAHA
...
I know that... But those words really stick when you say them out loud...
I mean, you were only about a second away, weren't you?
Ack.

It really is irresponsible to be kind to everyone.
From her perspective, you're the only one for her—and yet...
I think that when Senjogahara sees you being kind to everyone, it makes her insecure.
Huh?
...it's like you'd be fine with anyone.
To take it to an extreme ...

You're quick to go with the flow.
And you don't want to hurt people.


Even just now.
You only think of me as a friend.

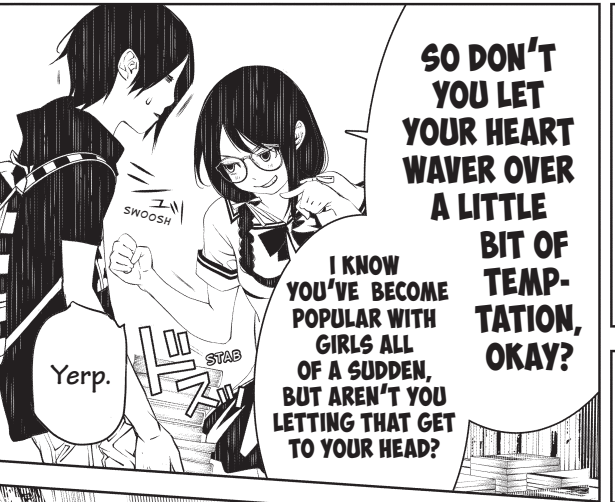

Mgh?
Hunh ?!

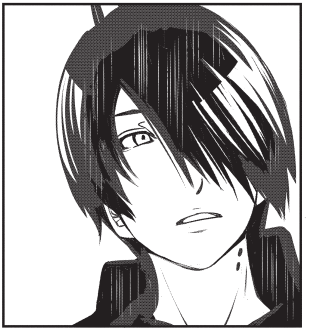
Er...
Y... Yeah!!
Well ...
That's it!!
Let's go with that! Hahaha!
Wow, Hane-kawa. You really *do see* through it all!

But when I came up to you like *thiiiis*, you felt like it'd be rude if you *didn't* do something...
That's what went through your mind, right?

But aren't you being even ruder to Senjogahara by doing that?
I mean, from here on out, Araragi...
It's not going to just be Kanbaru... You're going to keep on meeting all kinds of girls.
But Senjogahara believes in you.
Even with all those girls in your life...
She believes the only hand you're going to hold is hers.

Maybe that's it.
She wants to believe that you're going to hold it...
Or not.
Maybe I'm wrong.


SWOOSH
Yerp.
STAB
I KNOW YOU'VE BECOME POPULAR WITH GIRLS ALL OF A SUDDEN, BUT AREN'T YOU LETTING THAT GET TO YOUR HEAD?
SO DON'T YOU LET YOUR HEART WAVER OVER A LITTLE BIT OF TEMPTATION, OKAY?



Hm?

HA HA
HA HA HA
MHM!
JUST AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND!!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WISE WORDS, MISS HANEKAWA!
HISTORY

REFERENCE

ZZT

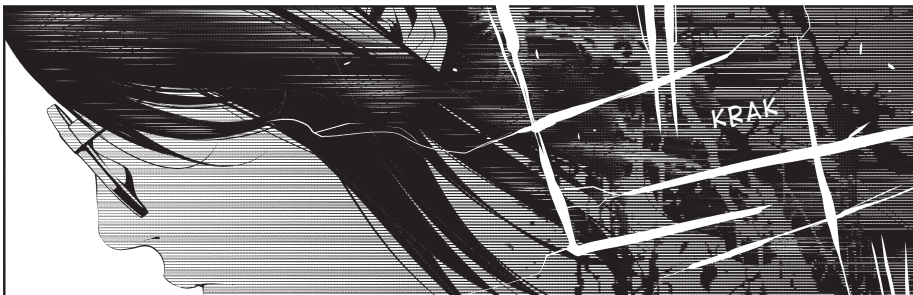
THROB

You know, I actually got a better score than I expected on the recent midterms... It's almost like I remembered how to study.
Well, I really just have Senjogahara's rigorous study sessions to thank.
Couldn't you have at least prepared some kind of a punchline for me? Like doing all of that studying but somehow getting an even lower score than usual?
Why would I have to come up with a punchline like that for you?!
THWAP
Ah... You really are no fun.
That's right. You need to work hard.
I feel like she might be happy for me on the inside. She talked about how her mission was to make sure I didn't have to repeat a grade.
...I know she said that, but...

Paperbacks
Oh, but— Hanekawa.
Don't tell Senjogahara yet...
Don't say anything about me taking the entrance exam for the same university as her, okay?
I know.
You don't want to disappoint her, right? That's wonderful of you, Araragi.

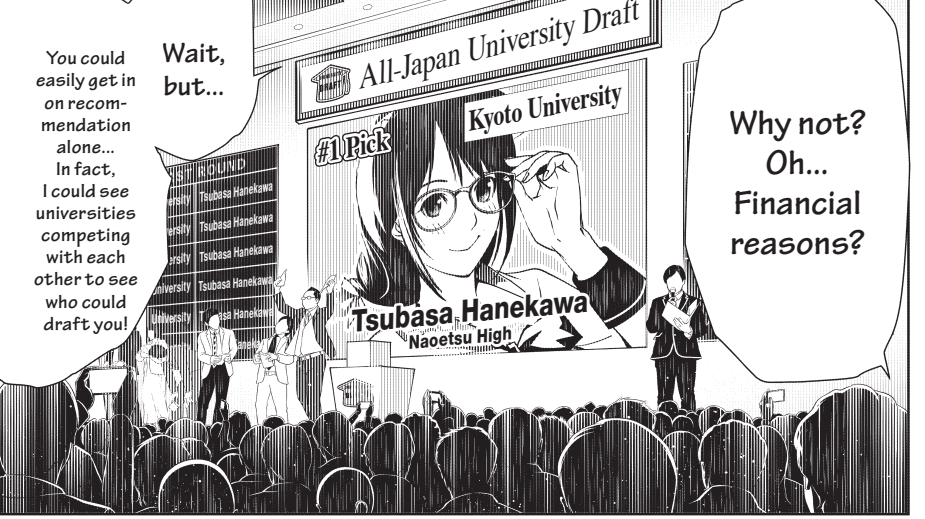
THROB
THROB
THROB

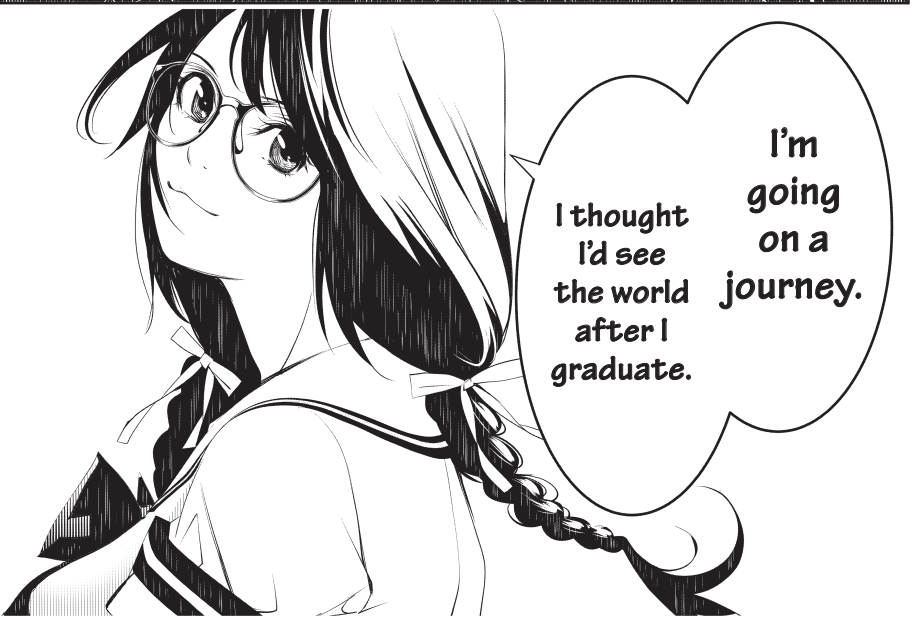
You know, Senjogahara is...

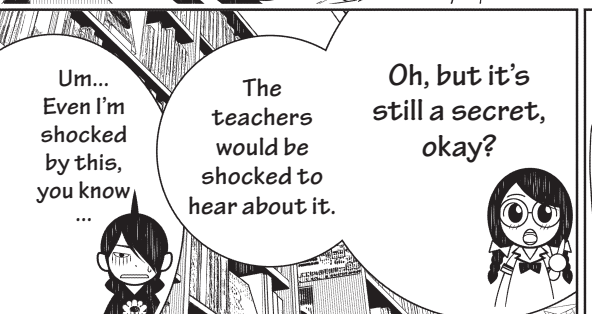

KRAK

BAM
That reminds me, what school are you going to again?
Oh.

I'm not going to university.
Wha ?
WHAAA ?!
I guess she couldn't find it in her to get mad now that the conversation finally turned to her...
That's being a woman for you...
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
GRIN


You could easily get in on recommendation alone... In fact, I could see universities competing with each other to see who could draft you!
Wait, but...
All-Japan University Draft
#1 Pick
Kyoto University
Tsubasa Hanekawa
Naoetsu High
Why not? Oh... Financial reasons?


I'm going on a journey.
I thought I'd see the world after I graduate.


Um... Even I'm shocked by this, you know ...
The teachers would be shocked to hear about it.
Oh, but it's still a secret, okay?

...!
A...A journeeey ...?

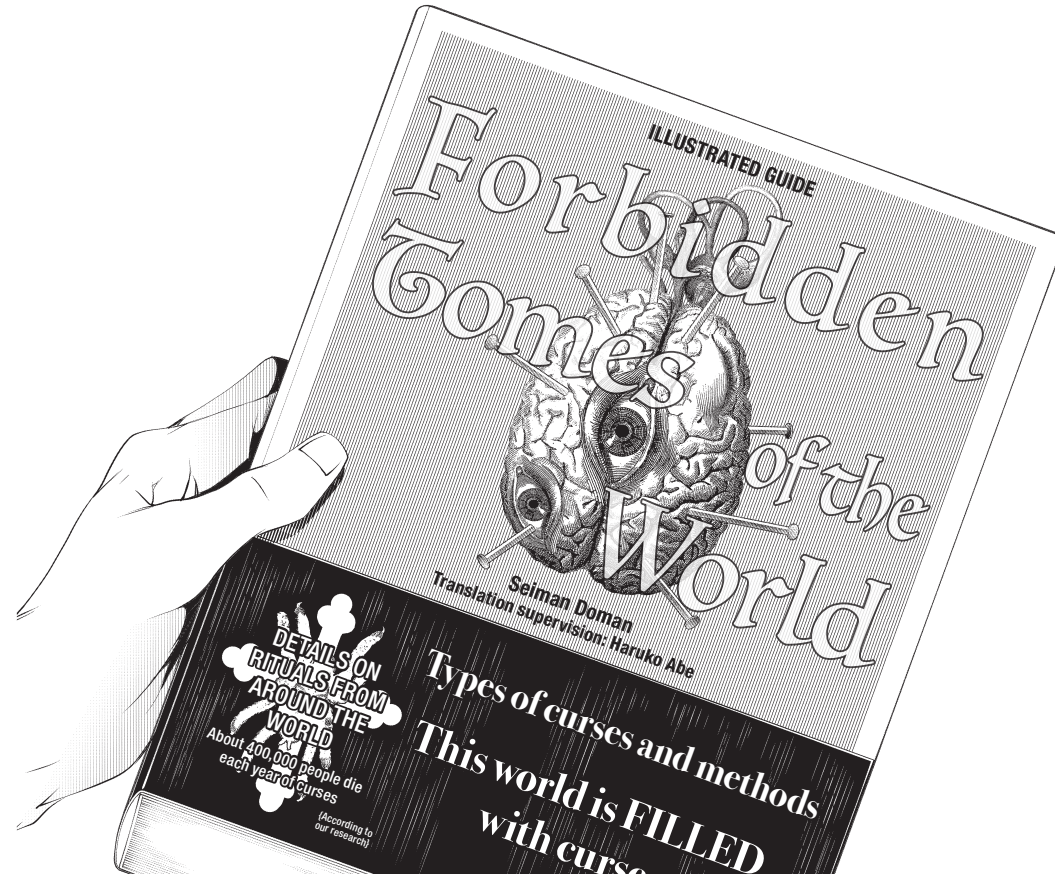
Great. I was hoping ...
...you would be the first one I told about this, Araragi.
It's this head-ache ...
It's a little... rough.
All right.
I'm heading back home.
Huh?
A head-ache.
Huh...? Oh! Then let me walk you back home.

...Oh.
R... Right.
... Sorry...
No. Not my home.
It's been happening a lot lately ...
It's fine.
Hey, thanks for today, Hanekawa.
Oh... Okay.
Bye-bye.
You should look at some of the other study guides.
Don't bother.
Thank you very much!
WHRRR

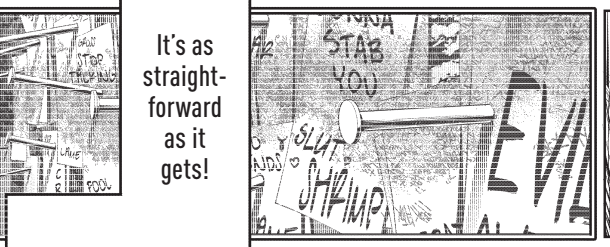
AH!
...Don't bother... Huh.
...But I want to...
O-OH...! RIGHT! I ALMOST FORGOT!
SEN-GOKU! NADEKO SEN-GOKU!!

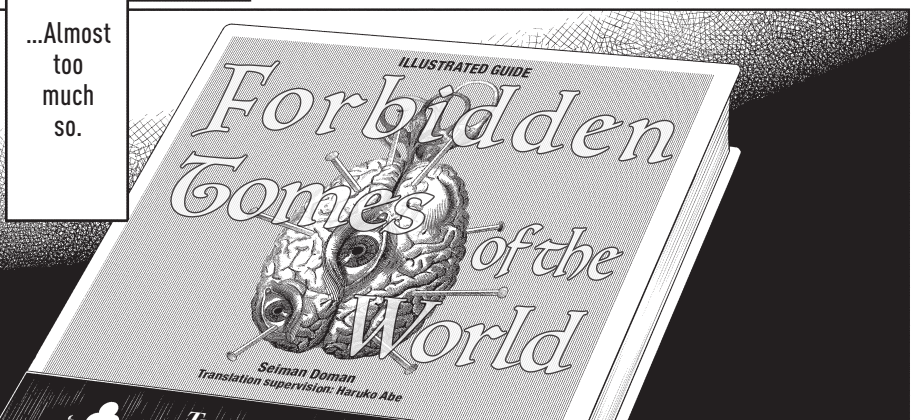
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
She's right there... It would be so awkward to just call out to her, though.
I remember her now... But she might have forgotten who I am...
SCURRY
SCURRY
SCURRY
SCURRY
SCURRY
I wonder what she was reading...

Eugh...

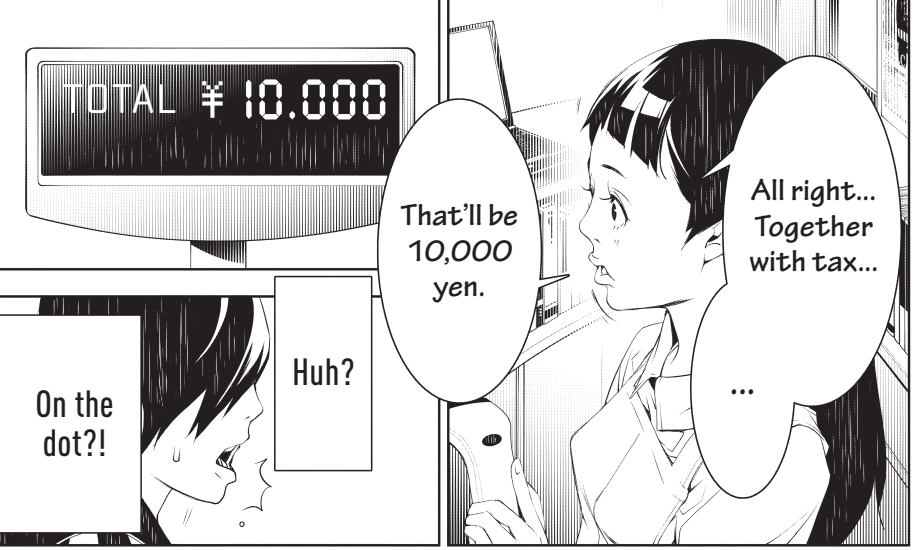

ILLUSTRATED GUIDE
Forbidden Tomes of the World
Seiman Doman
Translation supervision: Haruko Abe
DETAILS ON RITUALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
About 400,000 people die each year of curses
(According to our research)
Types of curses and methods
This world is FILLED
with curse

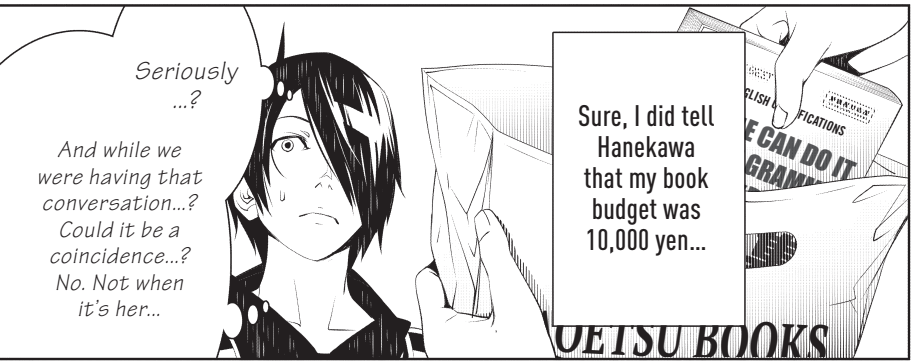
SHUDDER
Forbidden Tomes of the World
Types of curses and methods
This world is FILLED with curses
Hold on... This is...


It's as straight-forward as it gets!
STAB YOU
SLUT
JUMP
EVIL


...Almost too much so.
ILLUSTRATED GUIDE
Forbidden Tomes of the World
Seiman Doman
Translation supervision: Haruko Abe

She's still in the store, right ...?
Crap... Nadeko Sengoku...
Oh, wait ...
99876
ISBN978
C0098 ¥14800E
MSRP: ¥14,800 (tax excluded
That price !
I see. That's why Sengoku was just reading it in the aisle...
Book Signing Event!
...
Excuse me. I'll take these.
In any case, I should go ahead and check out.
THWAP


TOTAL ¥10,000
On the dot?!
Huh?
That'll be 10,000 yen.
All right... Together with tax...
...

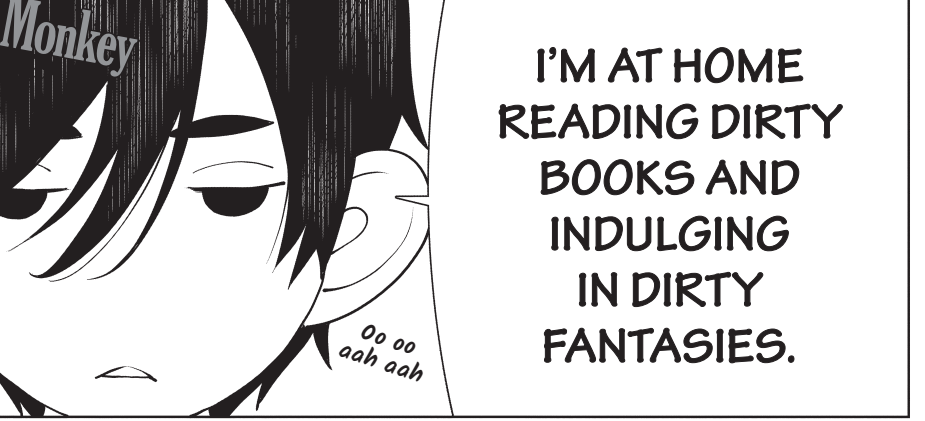

Seriously ...?
And while we were having that conversation...? Could it be a coincidence...? No. Not when it's her...
Sure, I did tell Hanekawa that my book budget was 10,000 yen...
OETSU BOOKS

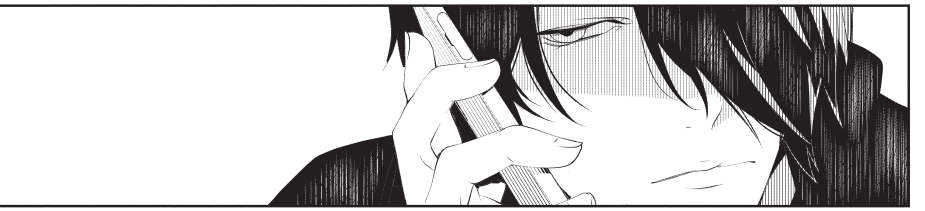
I bet she'd say something like that.
It's just simple addition and multiplication, isn't it?
Huh?

NURGH?!
Ah, crap!
I TOTALLY LOST SIGHT OF HER! WHAT AM I, STUPID?!
Oh, fine!
It's just a hunch— but I think I know where she's going.
Given the circumstances, I'll have *her* help me out.
The more, the merrier... And she's good with this kind of thing.
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAPP

This is Suruga Kanbaru.
My special move is double jumping.
Liar!
No human can do that.
Like Him
Friends or Enemies

Heheh.
Whether I have time or not, I'll go anywhere you ask me to. I'll be right there if you need me, even if I have to jump into a fire to get to you.
Kanbaru, if you're available, there was something I wanted you to help me with.
What are you doing right now?
GSHHNK
...
Umm... Well.
Where are you now, and what're you doing? Depending on that...
Well, there's no need for that.
I still feel a little guilty about yesterday.
What is it? You can tell me.
Well... You see...
NPC
24H
時間貸 300円/30分
1600円
500円



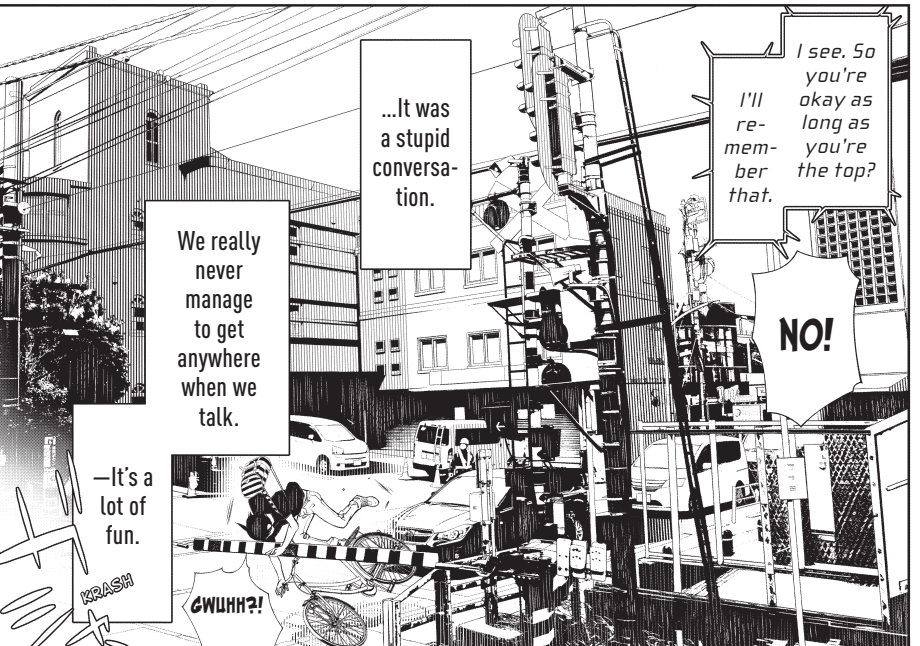


...I shouldn't have pressed so much.

Sigh...
Not one for paring down your selections, huh...?
Tsk, tsk, tsk. You ought to know that I love every pairing under the sun.
No, really! Shut up!!
...So you're saying you're not busy?
I guess I couldn't argue if you put it that way.
Thinking about how you and Mister Oshino would work together doesn't exactly count as being busy.
Hey!! Hold on!!
That's what you meant by "dirty fantasies"?!

So?
Where do you need me to go?
Don't change the topic! Wait, scratch that, don't put us back on topic!

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU SAY I'M THE BOTTOM!!
WHO'S THE TOP AND WHO'S THE BOTTOM?!


I see. So you're okay as long as you're the top?
I'll remember that.
NO!
...It was a stupid conversation.
We really never manage to get anywhere when we talk.
—It's a lot of fun.
KRASH
GWUHH?!

HEY.
Are there accelerators attached to her legs or something...?
...How'd you get here first ...?
HAHAHA
I would never allow one of my superiors to wait on me two times in a row.
SKRRRCH
Your speed doesn't even seem human.
Hm? If it isn't human, what does that make it? Amphibian?
When I think of amphibians, the impression I get isn't of fast runners...

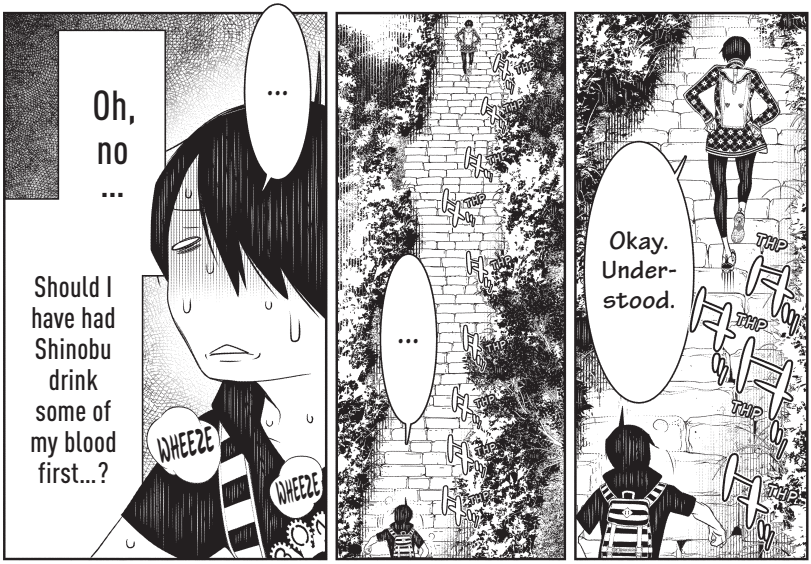
RIBBIT
IF YOU THINK OF ME IN THAT WAY, I WILL GLADLY CALL MYSELF AMPHIBIAN!
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF IMPRES-SION!
Oh, shut up.
RIBBIT

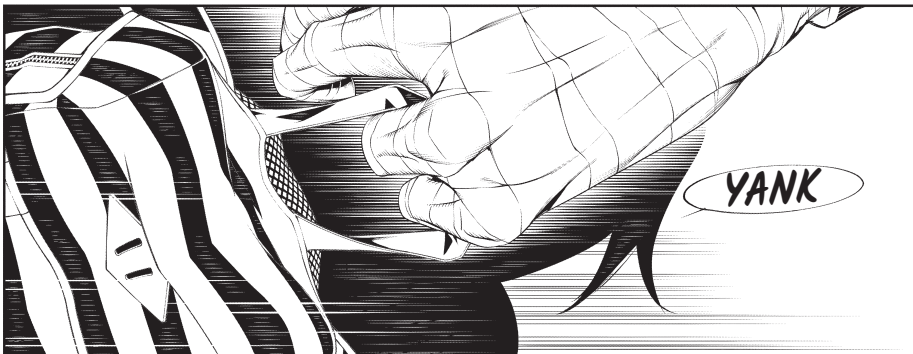
PANT
PANT
PANT
NOW HURRY! PLEASE CALL ME YOUR "LOWLY, FILTHY PET"!!

Senjogahara turned me down, too...
...Hrmph. Why won't anyone call me that...?
EVEN SHE DIDN'T WANT TO?!

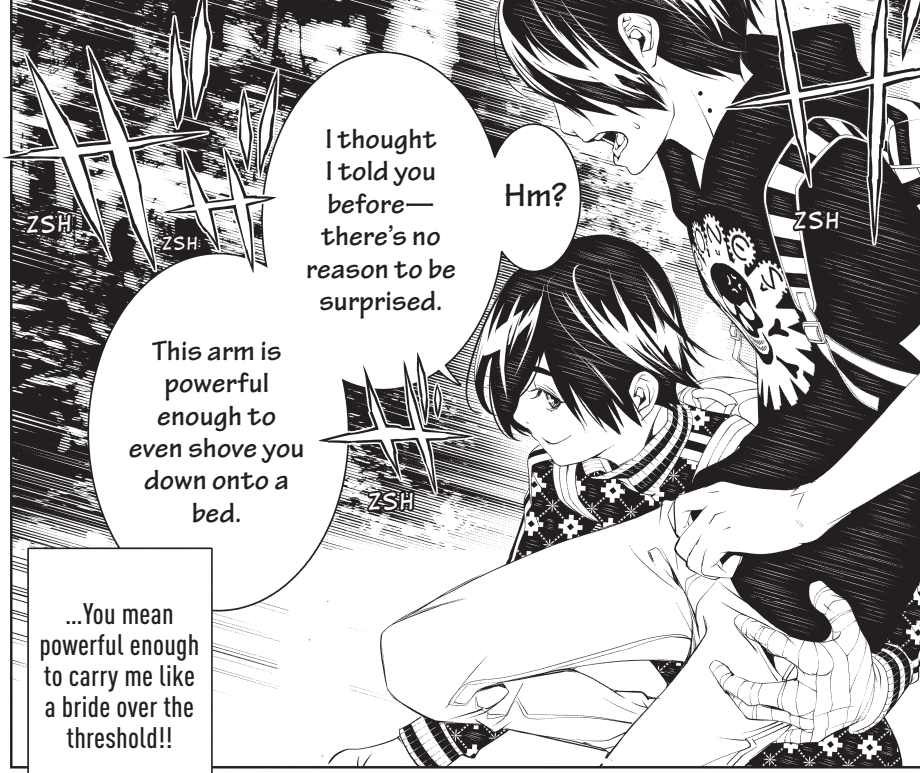
We're in a hurry.
Kan-baru.
Sorry to say this after you ran here, but we're going to keep on running.
Wha ?!

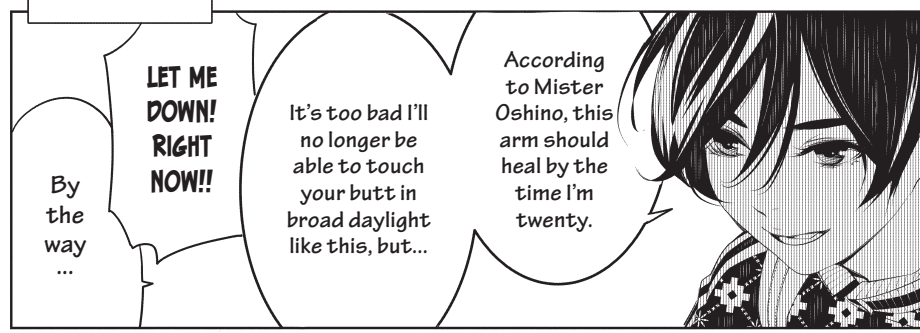
...Right now, you need to shut up and run.
Do I need to strip?
THP
THP
So, Araragi. What do I need to do?

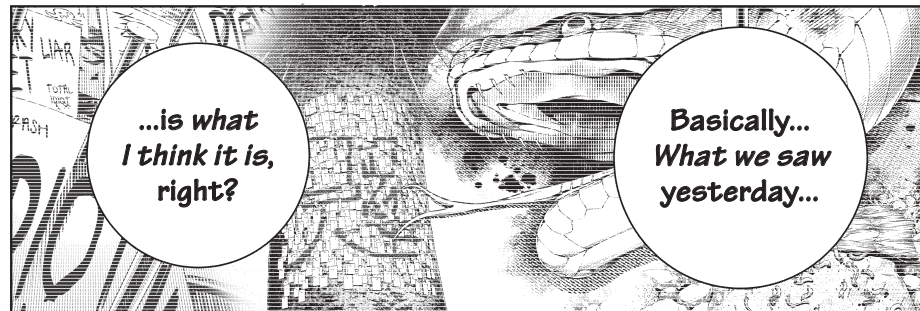

Oh, no...
...
Should I have had Shinobu drink some of my blood first...?
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
...
Okay. Understood.
THP
THP
THP


YANK

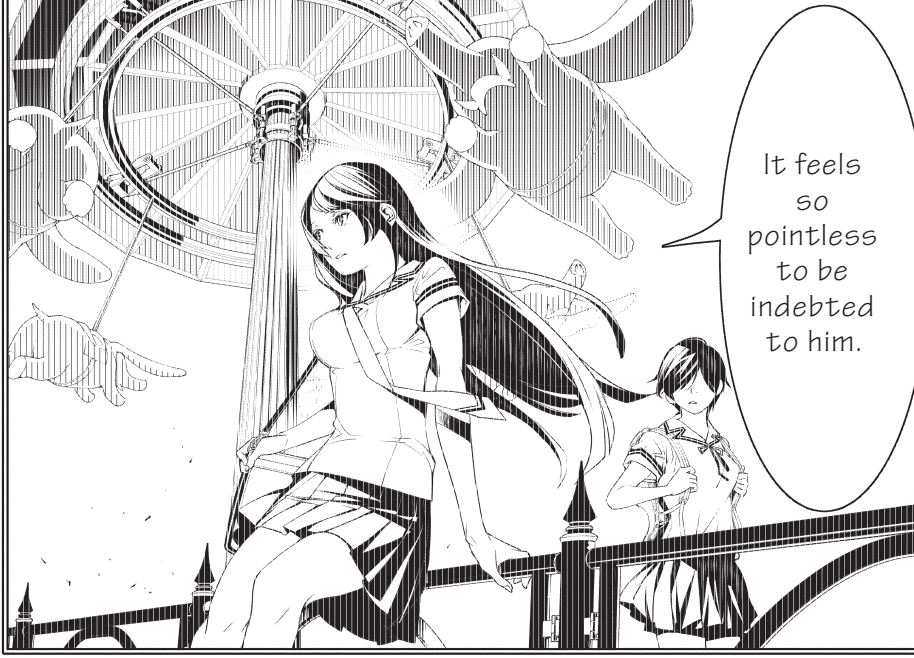
Excuse me.
THWAMP
THWAMP
THWAMP
THWAMP
Uh—
Wha ?!


ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
Hm?
I thought I told you before— there's no reason to be surprised.
This arm is powerful enough to even shove you down onto a bed.
...You mean powerful enough to carry me like a bride over the threshold!!

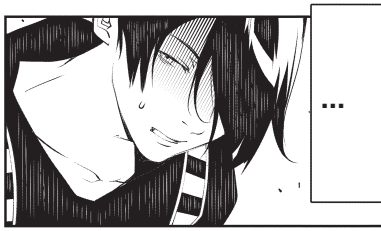

By the way ...
LET ME DOWN! RIGHT NOW!!
It's too bad I'll no longer be able to touch your butt in broad daylight like this, but...
According to Mister Oshino, this arm should heal by the time I'm twenty.


...is *what I think it is*, right?
Basically... *What we saw yesterday...*

怪異
Aberration
...Ah, jeez.
Sorry that I dragged you into all of this, Kanbaru...
No. ...It's not that.
You're kind to everyone—that's what Senjogahara said, and it seems like it's true.
I thought I'd learned that well enough... but I get a different impression now that I see it in person.


It feels so pointless to be indebted to him.

I'm just complaining, that's all.
Sorry. I was talking to myself. No, I'm talking out of turn.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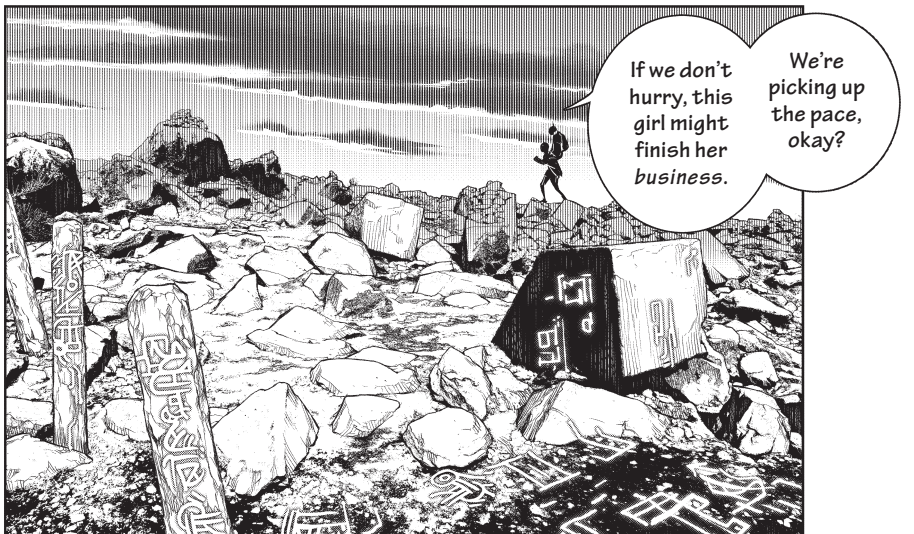
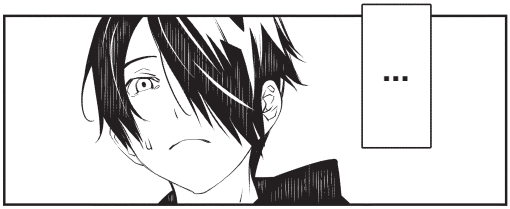

If we don't hurry, this girl might finish her business.
We're picking up the pace, okay?

Hooh ...
Uhp !
Haah!
Hah... Urgh...
HISSS
Sengoku!!

Big Brother Koyomi ...
TIP
FWSH
She... remembered me...

...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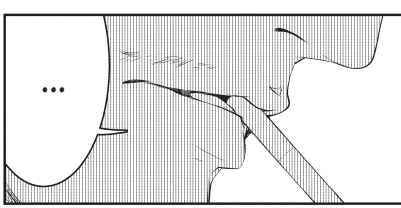
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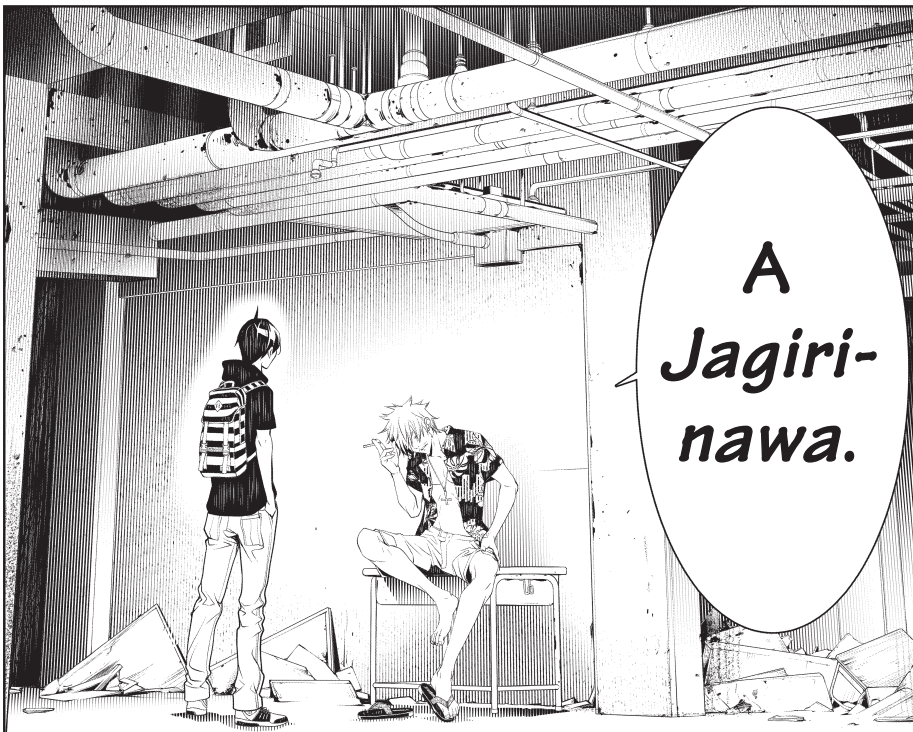
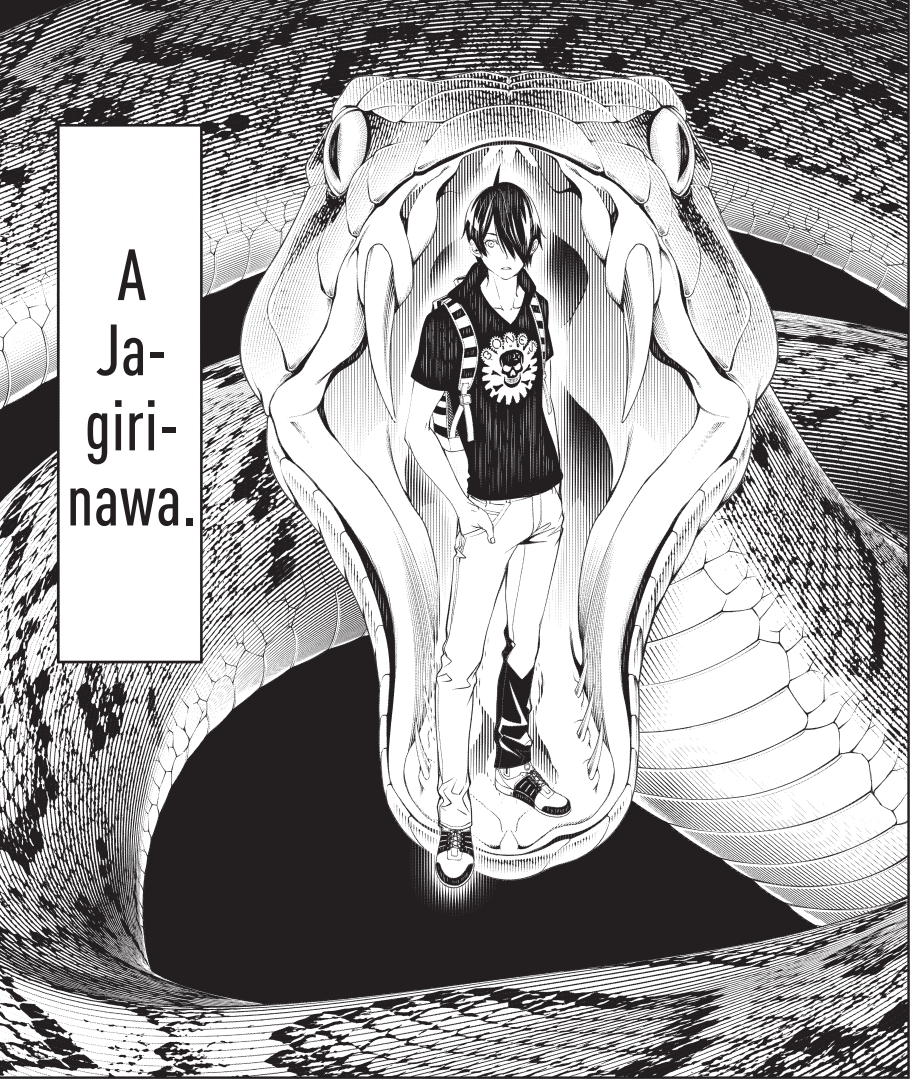

A
Jagiri-
nawa.



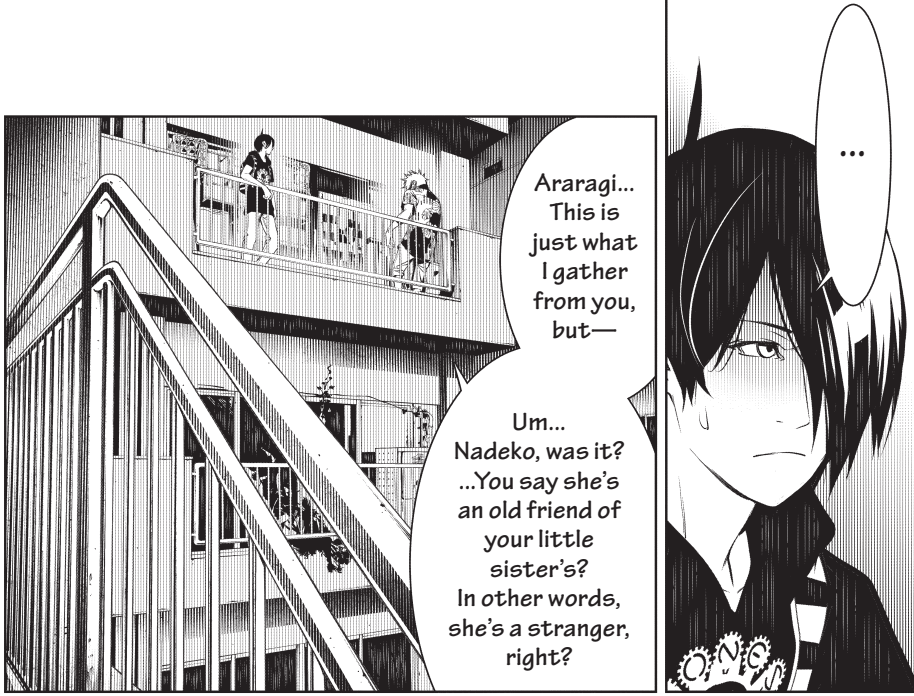
Snake: The general term for reptiles in Class Reptilia, Order Squamata, Suborder Serpentes. Noted for their long, thin, cylindrical bodies covered in scales. They have hundreds of vertebrae and are able to squirm about freely.

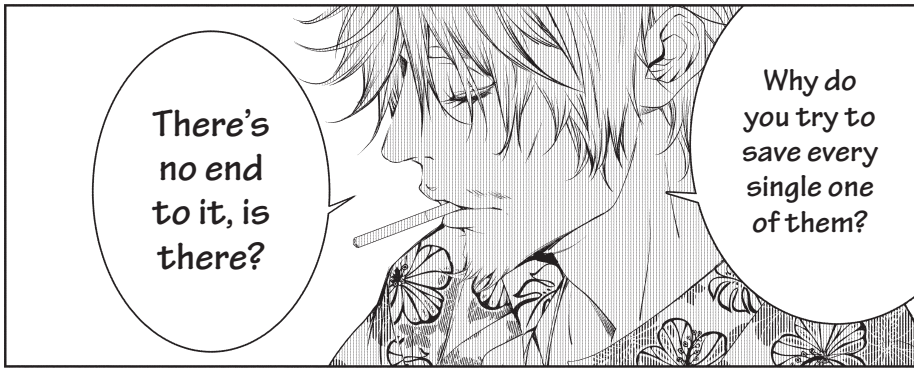
I can state that for a fact.
It's a snake.
That really ...
...really seems ominous...
...Crabs and snails have nothing on snakes when it comes to spookiness.
Well, it's all right to have that impression, Araragi.
Because you're not wrong to say that.

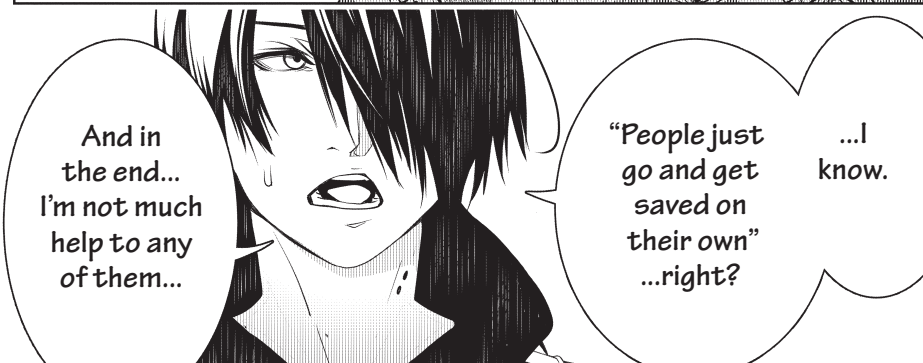
Though some regions just straight-up call it a kuchi-nawa.
Hebi-nawa.
Ja-nawa.
Jakiri.
Hebi-kiri-nawa.
I get that you can call a snake that...
But why would you use a name that comes from the words "mouth-rope"?
Good question.
You see, when snakes mate, the male and female wrap their bodies around each other.
It makes them look like a rope.
It's to the point that some people theorize this is the origin of the straw ropes used at shrines.
Snakes have been objects of worship since long ago, you know.

Wor-
ship,
huh
...?
You know, Hanekawa said something similar.
That shrine, Kita-Shirahebi Shrine was ground zero for this region's veneration of a snake god...
Snakes do eat mice and other pests that feed on grain... And they have incredible vitality. That's what caused people to see them as divine.
Ha hah!
That's Missy Class President for you. And just when I wanted to keep that a secret from you.
In that case, maybe I should've given the talisman job to her.
You do manage to reel in trouble no matter where you go...
She already finished repaying you, remember ?!
Did she now? Oh, maybe she did. Ha hah.

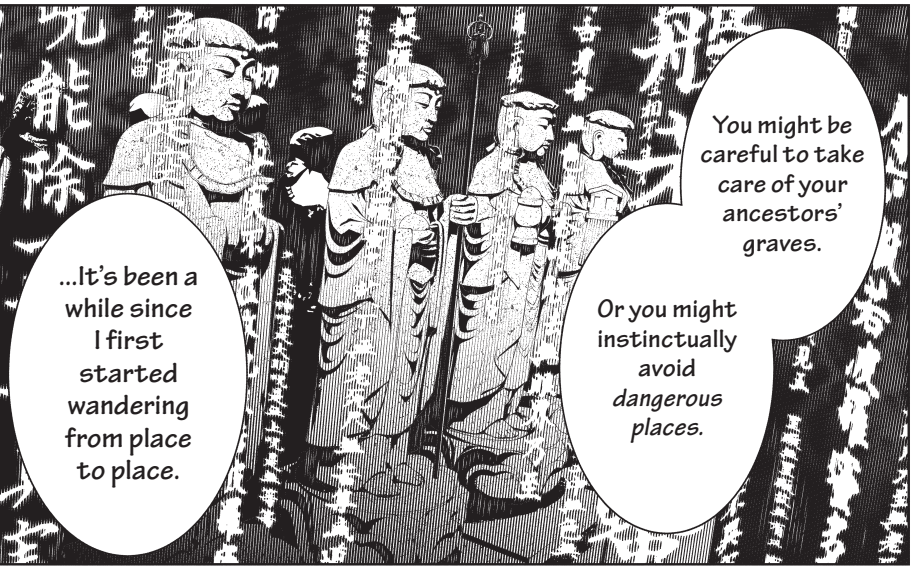
*A Japanese cryptid that is described as a snake-like creature whose body is short and wider than its head.


Araragi... This is just what I gather from you, but—
Um... Nadeko, was it? ...You say she's an old friend of your little sister's? In other words, she's a stranger, right?
...


There's no end to it, is there?
Why do you try to save every single one of them?


And in the end... I'm not much help to any of them...
!
"People just go and get saved on their own" ...right?
...I know.

That's not it.
Normally, people who get involved with an aberration once...
...go out of their way to avoid them in the future.
They work to avoid any further involvement.

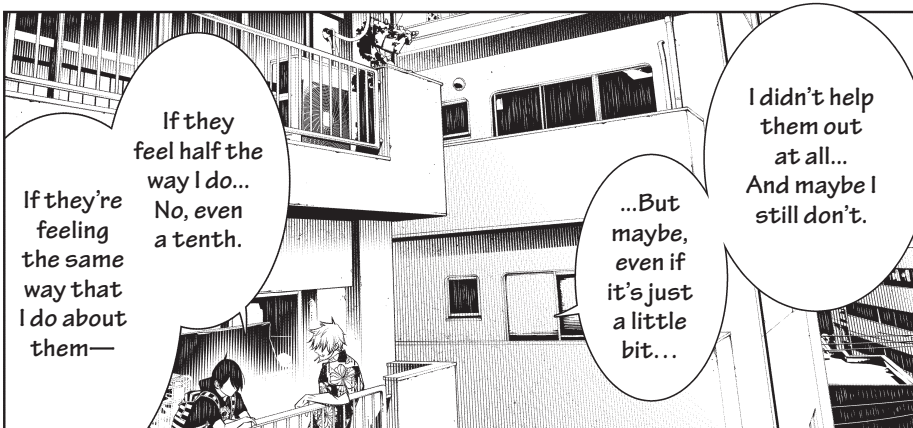

You might be careful to take care of your ancestors' graves.
Or you might instinctually avoid dangerous places.
...It's been a while since I first started wandering from place to place.

But this is the first time I've ever spoken this much with any one person.

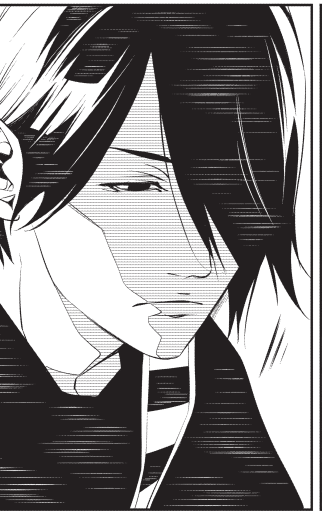
...
started smiling.
...You know, lately ...
Senjo-gahara's ...
...
Though she does also smile that way some-times.
Er, no.
No... Not like that.
I enjoy being with her.
That's why...
I get the feeling... That underneath it all, she's some-one who smiles all the time.

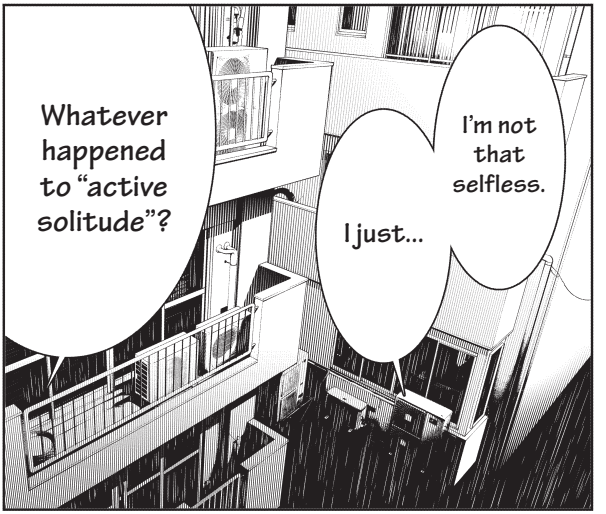
AA AAAGH!
HACHIKUJIIII!
Playing with Hachikuji—is so much fun.
HACHIKUJIII!
AAAGH
She might sometimes kick me with all her strength.
But I get her back.
Kanbaru's the school's star athlete. She's amazing.
She's amazing, but she's a pervert—and she's stupid.
Stupid in a fun way.

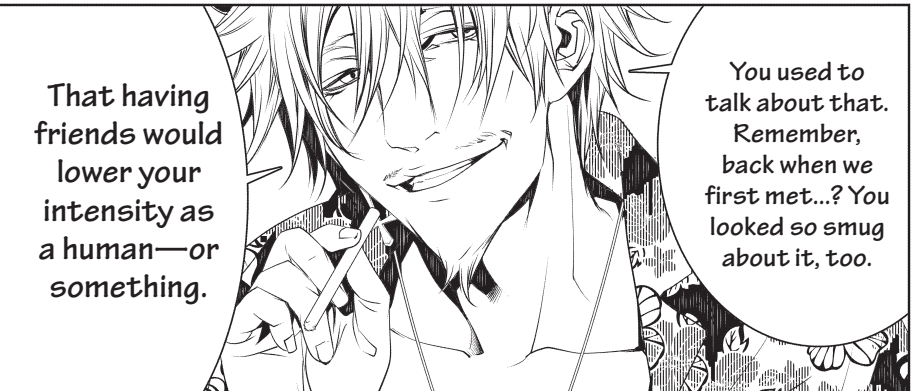
The fact they turned out that way—
that they were able to turn out that way—it makes me happy.
It has nothing to do with aberrations.

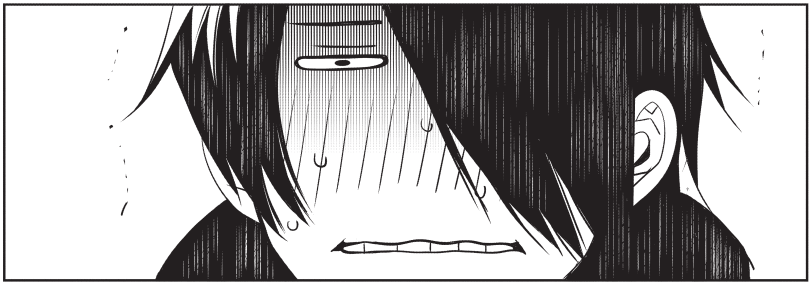

I didn't help them out at all... And maybe I still don't.
...But maybe, even if it's just a little bit...
If they feel half the way I do... No, even a tenth.
If they're feeling the same way that I do about them—

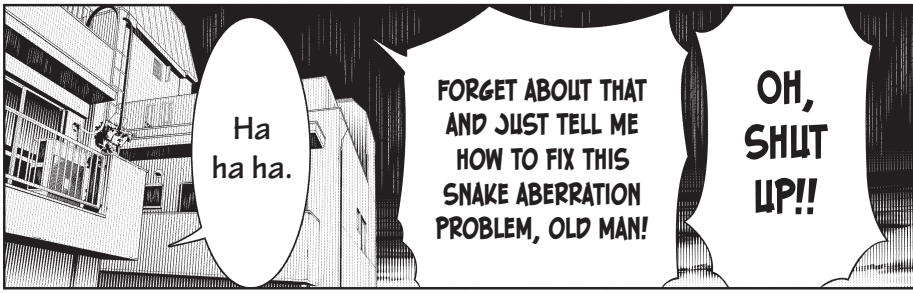
You don't care about putting yourself in danger.
Is that what this is?




Whatever happened to "active solitude"?
I just...
I'm not that selfless.


That having friends would lower your intensity as a human—or something.
You used to talk about that. Remember, back when we first met...? You looked so smug about it, too.




OH, SHUT UP!!
FORGET ABOUT THAT AND JUST TELL ME HOW TO FIX THIS SNAKE ABERRATION PROBLEM, OLD MAN!
Ha ha ha.

Two hours earlier

Kanbaru's home was too far, and I wasn't so sure about bringing an innocent girl like this to a room that filthy, so—
...Nadeko Sengoku said she had something she wanted to show me.
"Take me somewhere indoors where people won't see us."
OH! SO THIS IS MY DEAR SENIOR'S ROOM!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME INSIDE A BOY'S ROOM!
Why are all these monumental firsts in my life with her, of all people...?
Come to think of it, this is my first time having a girl in my room, too...
...

Okay, then!
Is this where you keep your dirty books?
THAT'S WHAT GUYS DO WHEN THEY GO TO THEIR MALE FRIENDS' ROOMS!!
JUST SIT OVER THERE!!

But I would find it worthwhile to know your tastes.
NOT ONLY DO I NOT FIND IT WORTHWHILE, I FIND IT ACTIVELY HARMFUL!

Ah, so you have books that are harmful to minors...
SAYS THE WALKING BAD INFLUENCE!
TAKE YOUR PICK, KANBARU! SIT DOWN OR JUMP OUT OF THAT WINDOW!

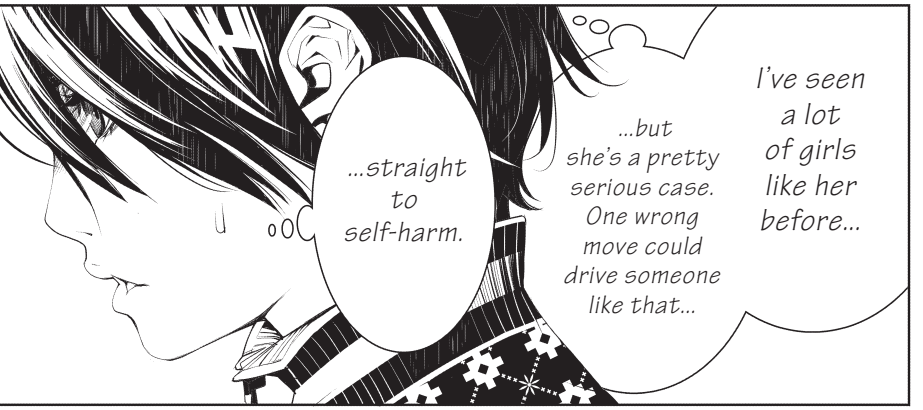
I looked into your tastes long ago, when I was still stalking you.
Just kidding!
You know I'm joking around, my senior Araragi.
I know every dirty book you've bought lately!!
WHAAT?! N-NO WAY...!!
I WAS CERTAIN NO ONE ELSE WAS IN THAT STORE...!
I MADE SURE OF IT!!

YOUR TASTES ARE QUITE OUT THERE, AREN'T THEY?
YOU'RE DOWN TO ONE OPTION! JUMP OUT THAT WINDOW!!
I'm sure most girls facing that kind of fetish would jump out of a window if that was the only way to escape.
But that's like child's play for me. I could withstand it.
YOU'RE PROUD OF IT!!
Special Feature
A second skin encasing your body!
Tales of an amateur girl's sexual awakening: Haruko's story
The extreme sexual circumstances of an amateur girl: Yuki's story
body tights
... Nnh ...
Keh heh ...
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL

I got my own room once I started middle school.
Oh... Yeah.
It's really changed, Big Brother Koyomi.
Your room.
...
Huh...
She laughed.
You know ...
When this girl smiles... it's kind of like...
She's ...
Really cute ...?

Could you both ...
...turn around... for just a moment?
?!
My senior Araragi... Sorry about just now.

I've had to endure a lot already, hearing a female friend tell me all about her kinks...
Even higher ?!
Please endure it. This is for her sake.
That said, I'm planning on turning it up even higher.

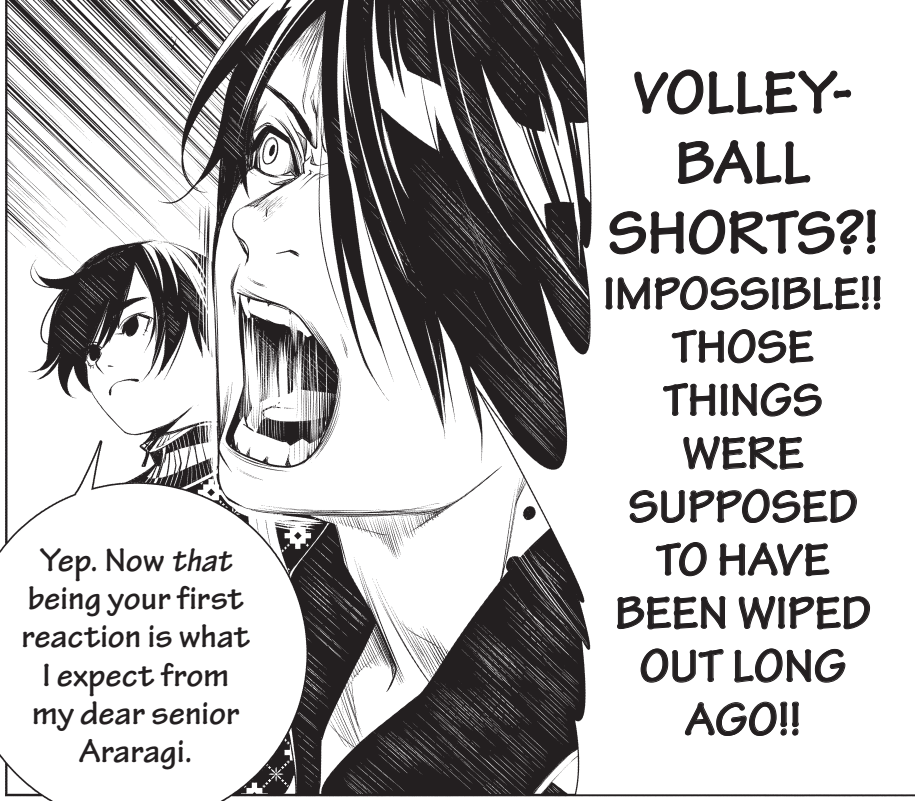

...straight to self-harm.
...but she's a pretty serious case. One wrong move could drive someone like that...
I've seen a lot of girls like her before...

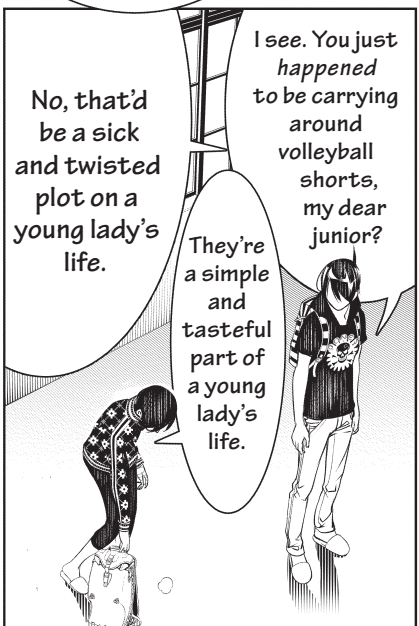
Self-harm.

Huh?

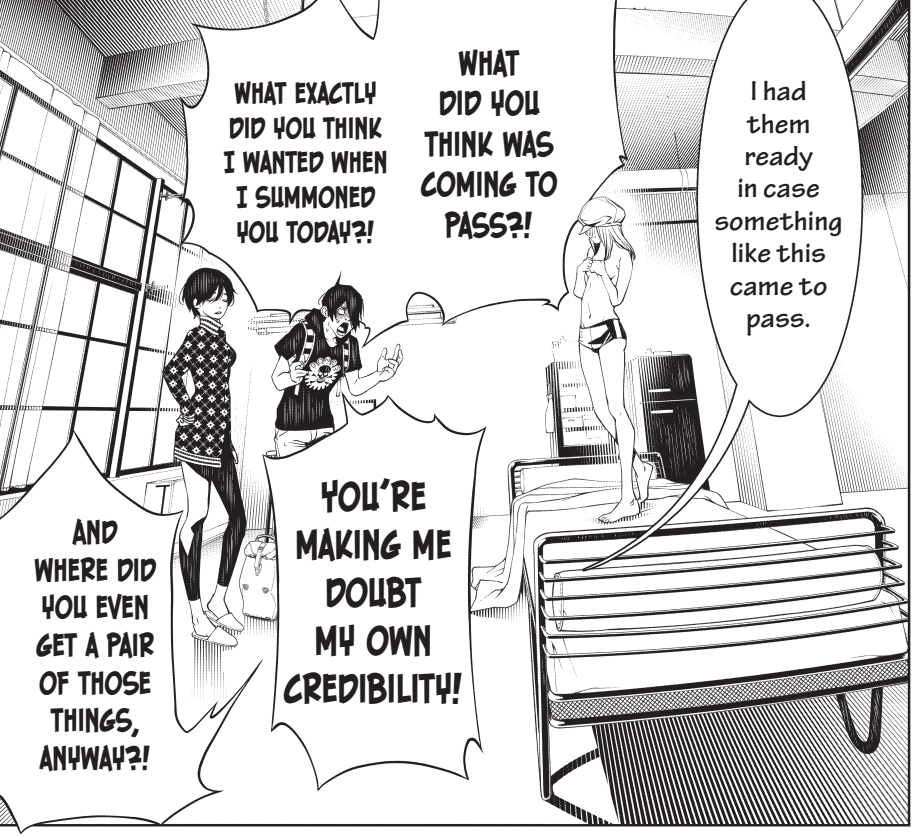
Um.
...It's okay now... You can turn around...

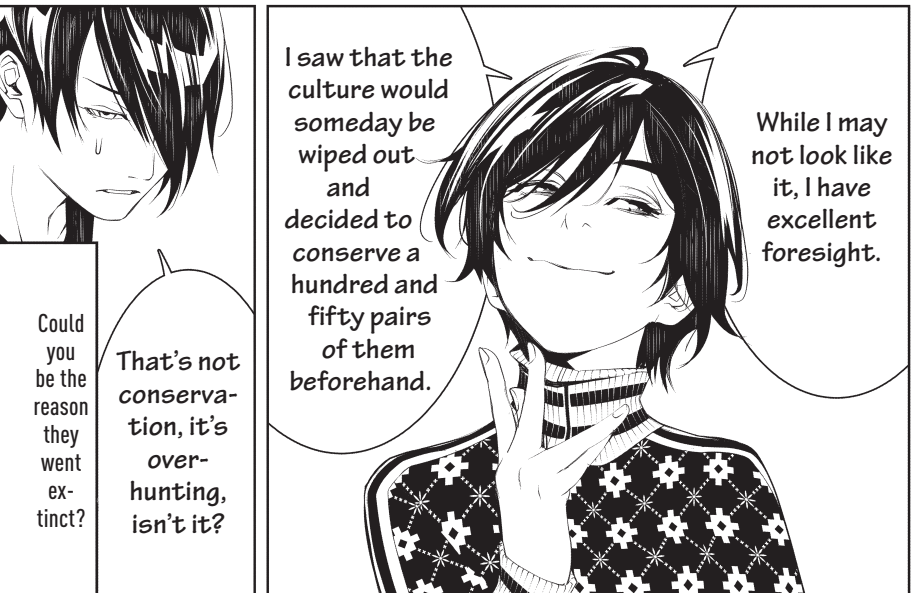
...Wha
...?!!


VOLLEY-BALL SHORTS?! IMPOSSIBLE!! THOSE THINGS WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT LONG AGO!!
Yep. Now *that* being your first reaction is what I expect from my dear senior Araragi.


I see. You just *happened* to be carrying around volleyball shorts, my dear junior?
No, that'd be a sick and twisted plot on a young lady's life.
They're a simple and tasteful part of a young lady's life.

I lent them to her— since I just happened to be carrying them around.


I had them ready in case something like this came to pass.
WHAT DID YOU THINK WAS COMING TO PASS?!
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU THINK I WANTED WHEN I SUMMONED YOU TODAY?!
YOU'RE MAKING ME DOUBT MY OWN CREDIBILITY!
AND WHERE DID YOU EVEN GET A PAIR OF THOSE THINGS, ANYWAY?!


While I may not look like it, I have excellent foresight.
I saw that the culture would someday be wiped out and decided to conserve a hundred and fifty pairs of them beforehand.
That's not conservation, it's overhunting, isn't it?
Could you be the reason they went extinct?

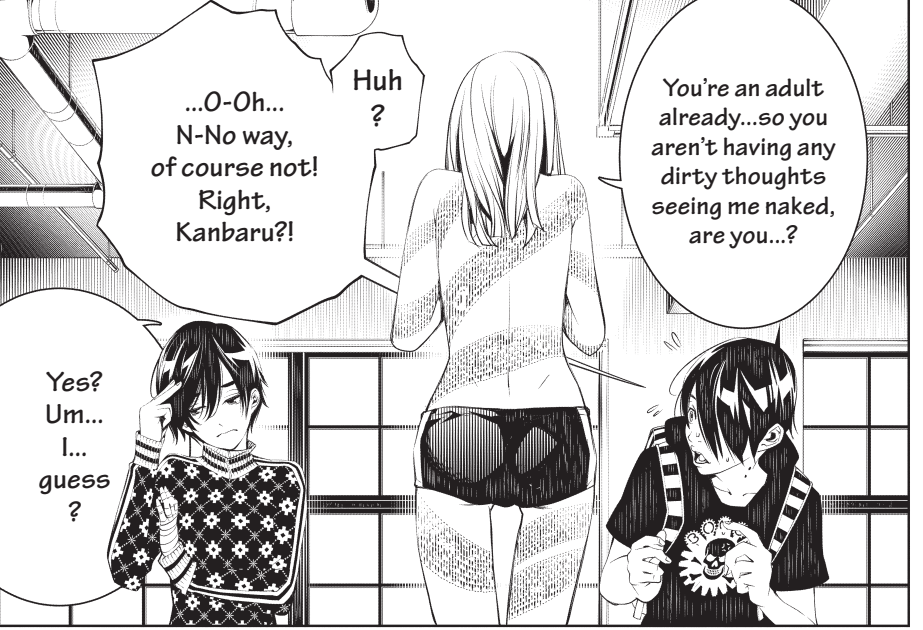
...
GSST
Nngh!
Ah!
Ugh!
Ugh!
?!

Ah!
Ah!
Uurgh ...
THMP
Ugh!
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
Uuurgh!
SHIVER
SHIVER
Sen-goku!
I... I'm... okay.
P- Please... look ...!!

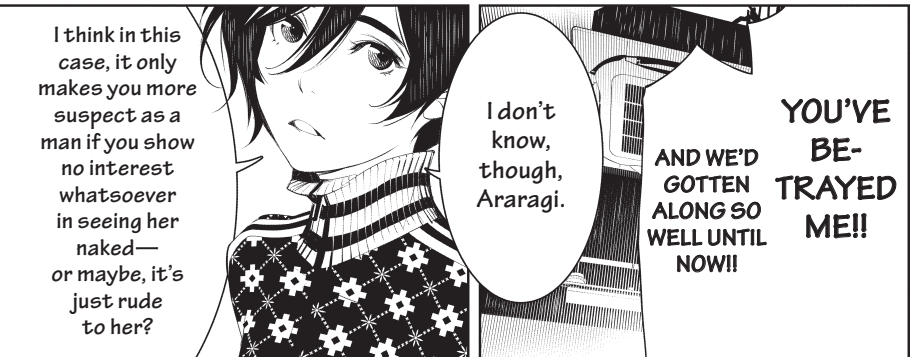
Fwoo...
Fwoo...
ZSSSSH
They're moving.
URK
SHIVER
...Scales ...?!
Scale... tattoos? ...No... That's not it...

GSSHT
GSSHT
GSSHT

That's what they remind me of.
They're like rope bondage marks...
TWITCH
Ah!
...Y-Yes ...!
Can I touch them, Sengoku?
leaving its marks on her skin...
Like something we can't see is gripped around her body,
Well, yeah... I guess they do.
Rope... bondage ...?
Big Brother Koyomi ...?
U-Um...
...


Huh ?
...O-Oh... N-No way, of course not! Right, Kanbaru?!
You're an adult already...so you aren't having any dirty thoughts seeing me naked, are you...?
Yes? Um... I... guess ?

It might do you good going forward to know that some people think dirty thoughts when they see little girls nude precisely because they're adults.
But if I'm being completely honest with you, Sengoku ...
Where'd all that loyalty of yours go?!
Hey, play along!!


I think in this case, it only makes you more suspect as a man if you show no interest whatsoever in seeing her naked— or maybe, it's just rude to her?
I don't know, though, Araragi.
AND WE'D GOTTEN ALONG SO WELL UNTIL NOW!!
YOU'VE BE-TRAYED ME!!

How inconsid-erate!! Say anything at all, it doesn't matter what it is!
It'd only be polite to provide some feedback!!
Hm.
Well, I see her point...
Now that I think about it,
Senjogahara did say back then that it's only polite to provide some feedback...
Let me correct myself.
BAM
I do have a few dirty thoughts seeing you naked, Sengoku.

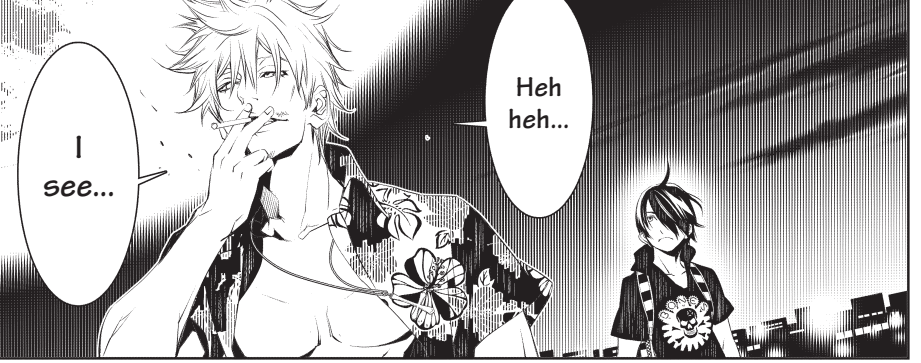
...Urr.
...
HEY! KAN-BARU!!
I'VE MADE HER CRY BECAUSE I TOOK YOUR ADVICE!
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE THIS RIGHT?!
...No one could have guessed that you'd put it so directly...
Urrgh...
Unngh...
Urrgh...
I...

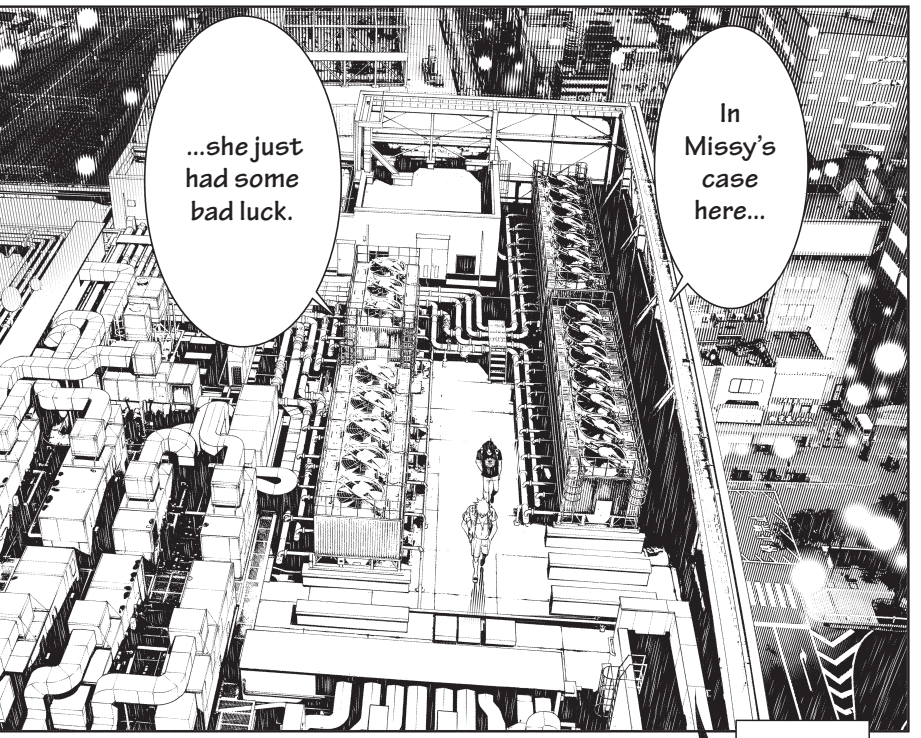
I...
...this body...
I hate having...
As much as I hesitated to leave a half-naked girl with the lust-driven demon that is Kanbaru,
I headed to Oshino's place alone.
Asking a girl in a mental state as fragile as hers to strip in front of Oshino could very well cause her to kill herself...

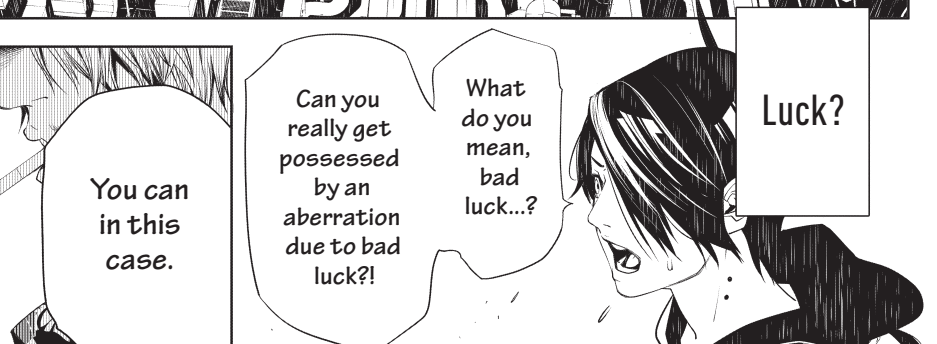
You know, Araragi— to be given some-thing...
...means something must be taken away.
SGRRK
No.
I learned that during Kanbaru's case.
This... is *something different.*
This isn't about saving her...
...or giving, or taking away... It's not any of that.
KSSHNK
カ
ッ
シ
ャ

She deserves...

...to always wear a smile on her face.

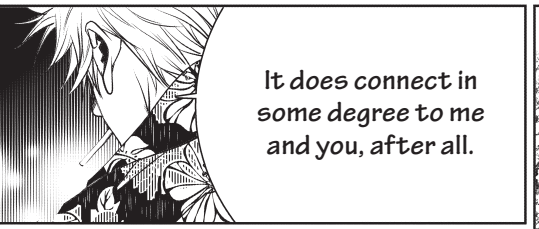

I see...
Heh heh...


...she just had some bad luck.
In Missy's case here...

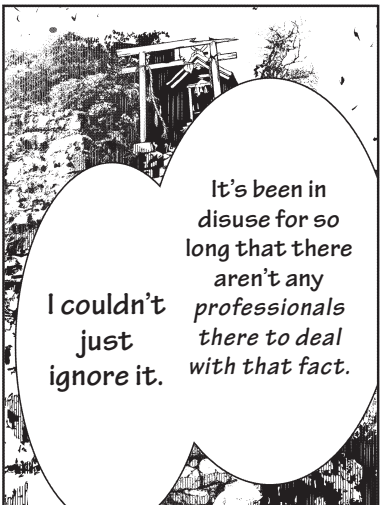

You can in this case.
Can you really get possessed by an aberration due to bad luck?!
What do you mean, bad luck...?
Luck?

Nothing's owed between us.
Your debts with me are all settled now.
HUH ?!
I had you place that talisman there, right?
Take that shrine—Kita-Shira-hebi.
Good work. I appre-ciate it.
Oh, now that I mention it, guess I never thanked you for that.
My debts—? Didn't I owe you...five million yen...?
But sorry, I don't have any cash on me.
I almost feel like I owe you a little bit of change.
That's just how much your job was worth this time.
It's this town, you see...
Does that have anything to do with Sengoku's aberration ...?
...And ...so what ?

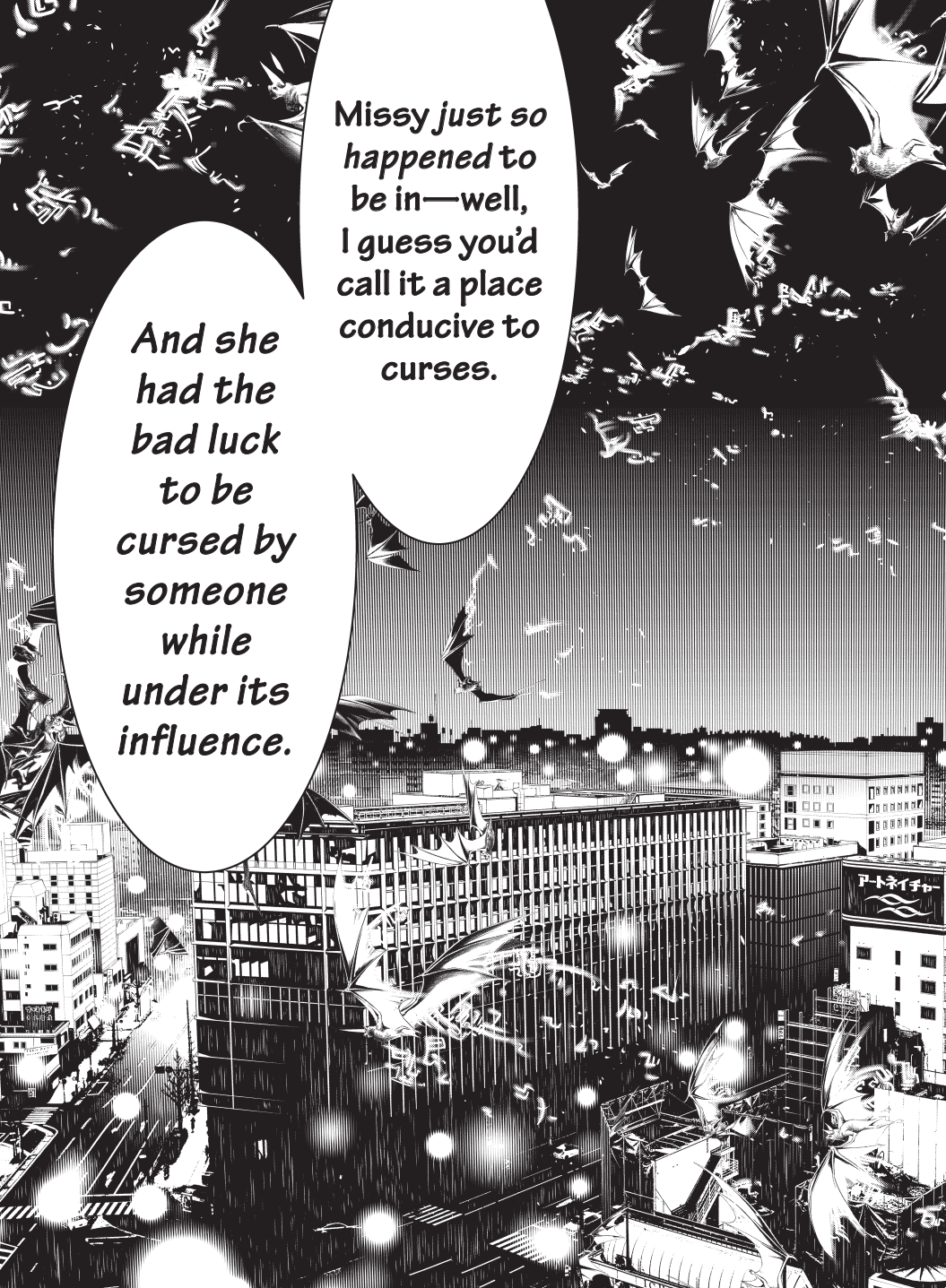
Right now,
there are too many bad things accumulating here.
That shrine is the center of it all.


It does connect in some degree to me and you, after all.

Huh?

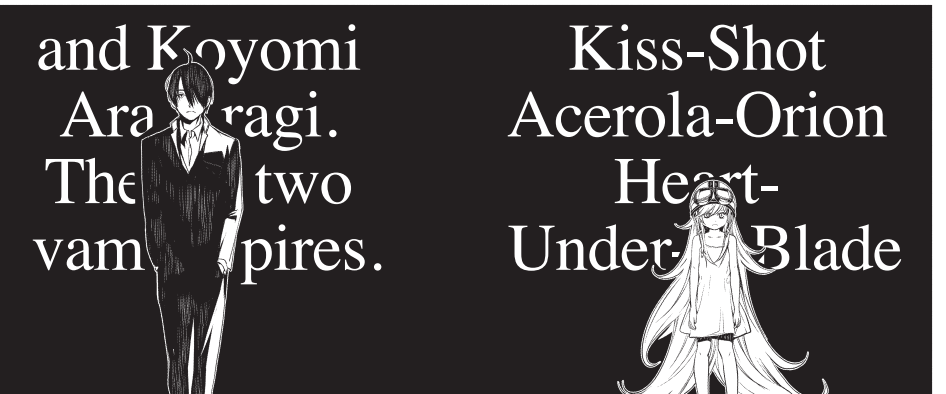

It's been in disuse for so long that there aren't any professionals there to deal with that fact.
I couldn't just ignore it.

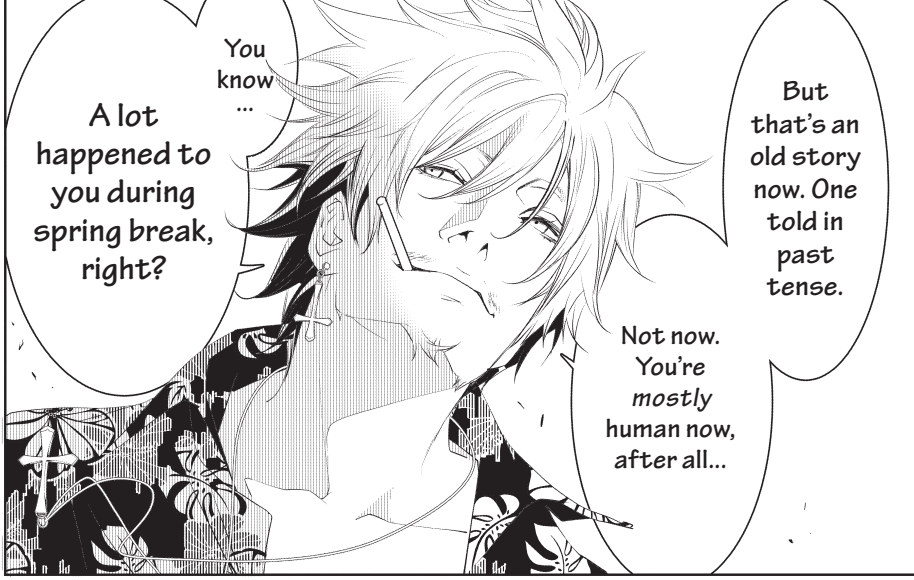
There are two kings of aberrations here in this town.
They're what's attracting those "bad things."


Missy just so happened to be in—well, I guess you'd call it a place conducive to curses.
And she had the bad luck to be cursed by someone while under its influence.
アートネイチャー

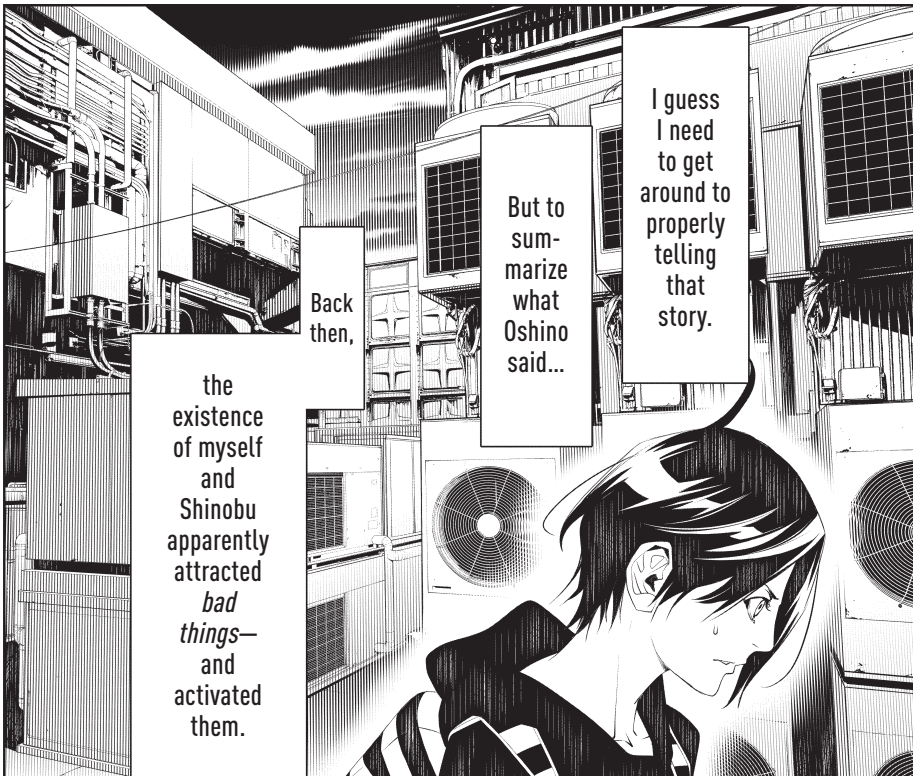
Two kings ...
...of aberrations ...?
One would have to be... Shinobu, naturally.
Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade.
And the other, of course ...
...is you.
Araragi.

The Two Kings of Aber-rations





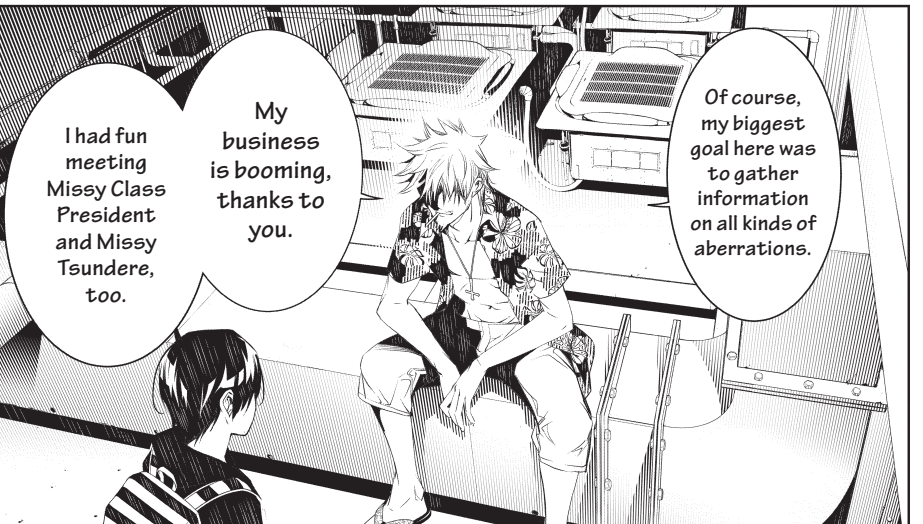
Spring break.



That's also why I've stayed here for so long.
There's all kinds of tidying up I've had to do after the fact, you know?
All right, then.

...All kinds? Like what?
What are these *bad things*...?

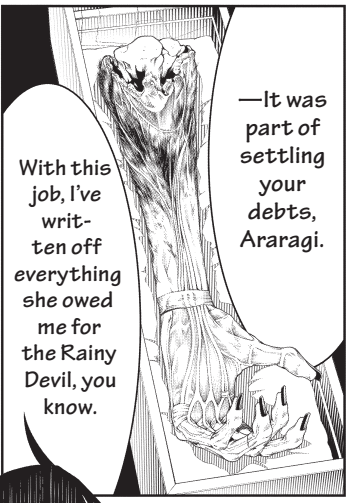
All kinds of things... Not something I can *easily* sum up.

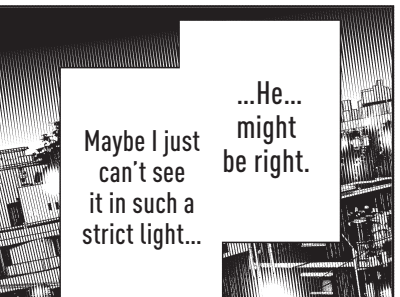

Of course, my biggest goal here was to gather information on all kinds of aberrations.
My business is booming, thanks to you.
I had fun meeting Missy Class President and Missy Tsundere, too.

Wait, so that talisman —
It was that important?!
...Tell me these things ahead of time!!
You stuck the talisman on the door of the main hall, right? That's a bit of a lazy job, but...
It's fine. It should scatter those bad things to some degree.
A change that's too dramatic could cause distortions in its own way.
...
Could it be...
...that Kanbaru suddenly started feeling unwell back then because of those bad things?
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
I guess I feel... a little tired...
Kanbaru? Tired?
...Don't tell me you sent us there... knowing that would happen.

She wouldn't be paying me back unless she went through a few struggles.
She did quite a lot to you.
And she wanted to do it, no?

Ha ha ha. Don't glare at me like that. You're always so spirited.
Something good happen to you?


—It was part of settling your debts, Araragi.
With this job, I've written off everything she owed me for the Rainy Devil, you know.


Maybe I just can't see it in such a strict light...
...He... might be right.

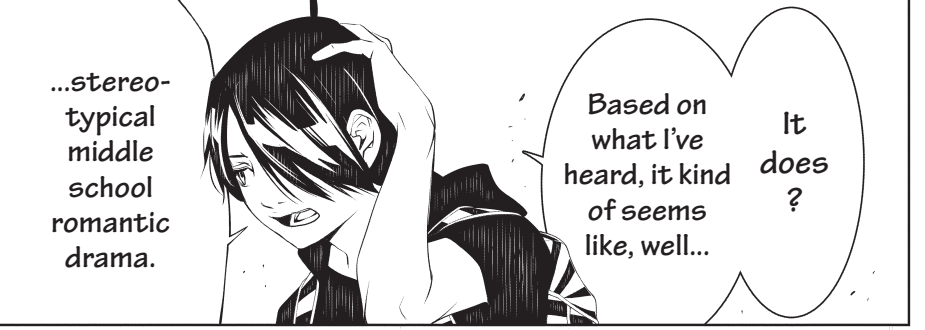
...

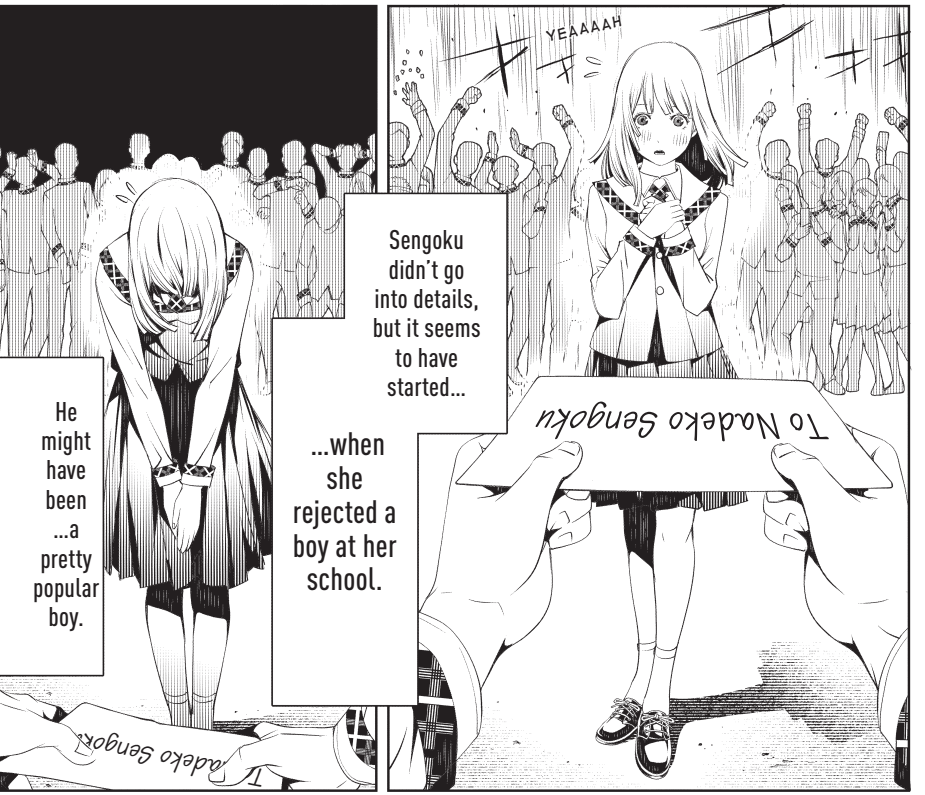
Please.
...Don't say that to Kanbaru.
I don't want that to weigh on her conscience.
Yeah, I know.
But— you know, I was totally fine back there.
Why is that?
Ah... That?
It's because you and li'l Miss Sapphy...
...are overwhelmingly different in terms of where you rank as aberrations.
THP
THP

...I might let myself be bothered by something crawling around my feet, even if it's this tiny.
As a city slicker...
...?
But a rough and tumble guy like you would never be bothered by a mere insect— that's what I mean.

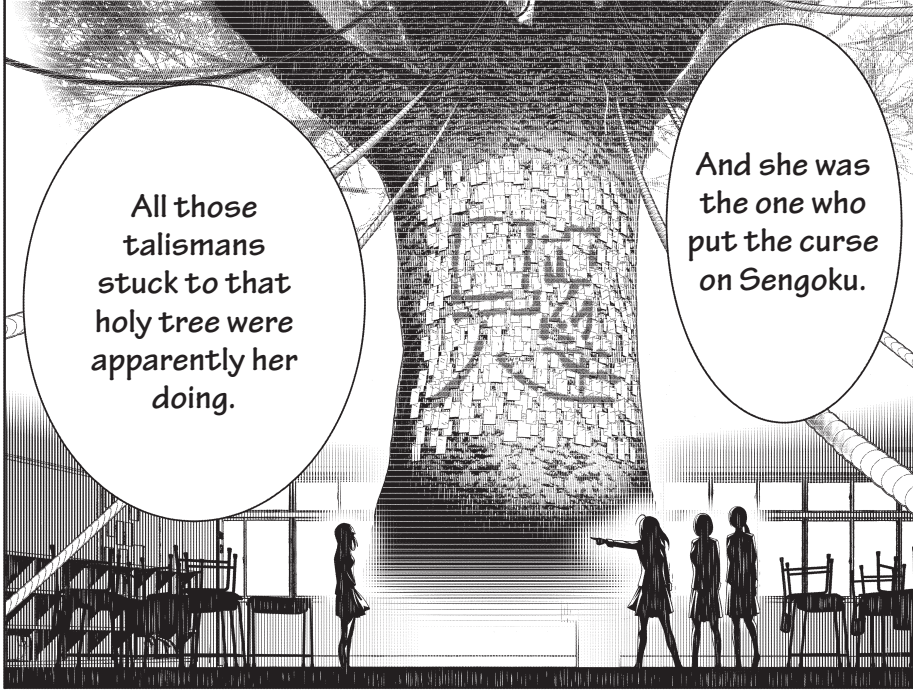
How...
...should I even react to that...?
...

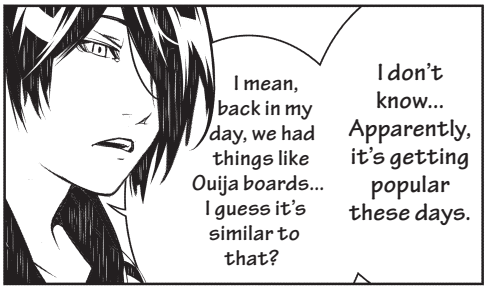
Let's get back on track, Araragi.
Seems like we got off-topic.
This Jagirinawa aberration—
It sounds like a pretty urgent situation.

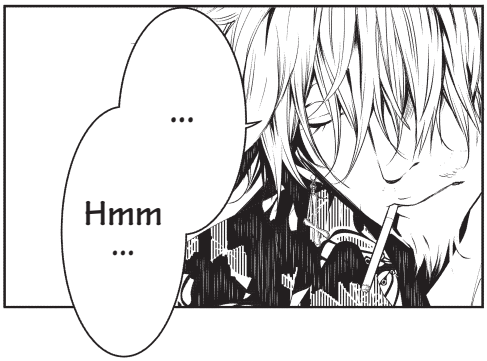

...stereo-typical middle school romantic drama.
Based on what I've heard, it kind of seems like, well...
It does?


He might have been ...a pretty popular boy.
Sengoku didn't go into details, but it seems to have started...
...when she rejected a boy at her school.
YEAAAAH
To Nadeko Sengoku

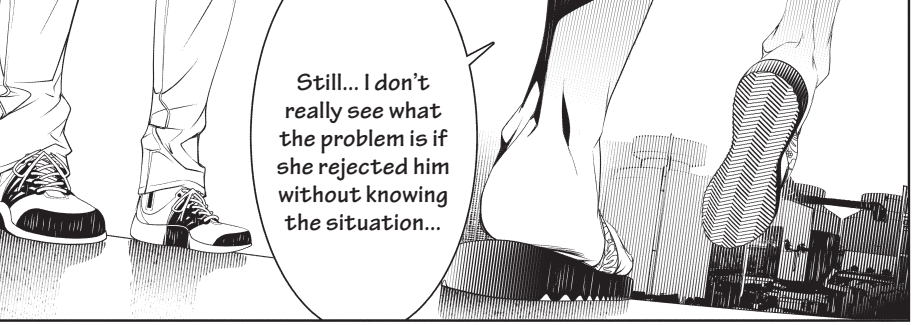
...Well, I guess I should say former friend.
But she also has a friend who liked this boy...


All those talismans stuck to that holy tree were apparently her doing.
And she was the one who put the curse on Sengoku.

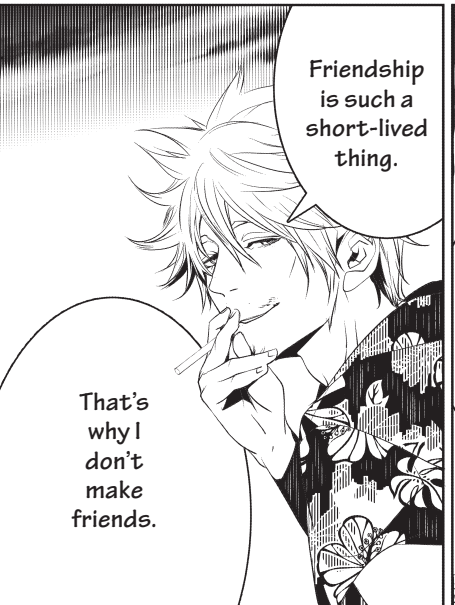

I mean, back in my day, we had things like Ouija boards... I guess it's similar to that?
I don't know... Apparently, it's getting popular these days.


...
Hmm
...

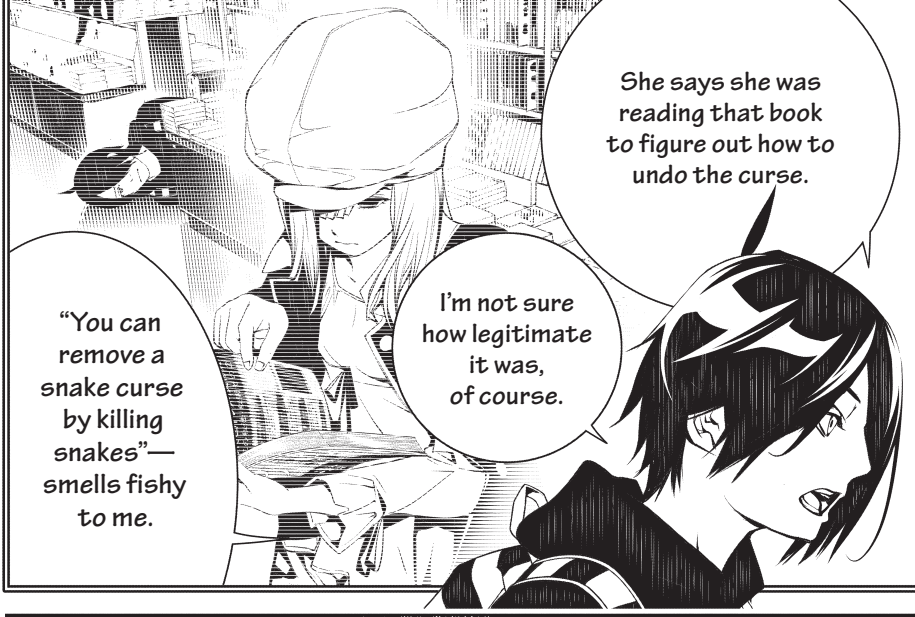
She must've been pretty serious about it.
...A middle schooler—and all over something like that...

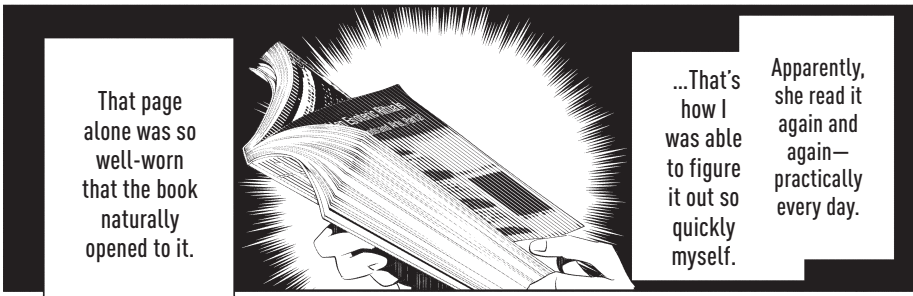

Still... I don't really see what the problem is if she rejected him without knowing the situation...

...is that she was furious to see a boy she liked getting rejected.
It'd be like watching something you hold dear be treated like garbage, right?
What I think ...
It's hard to say.


Friendship is such a short-lived thing.
That's why I don't make friends.

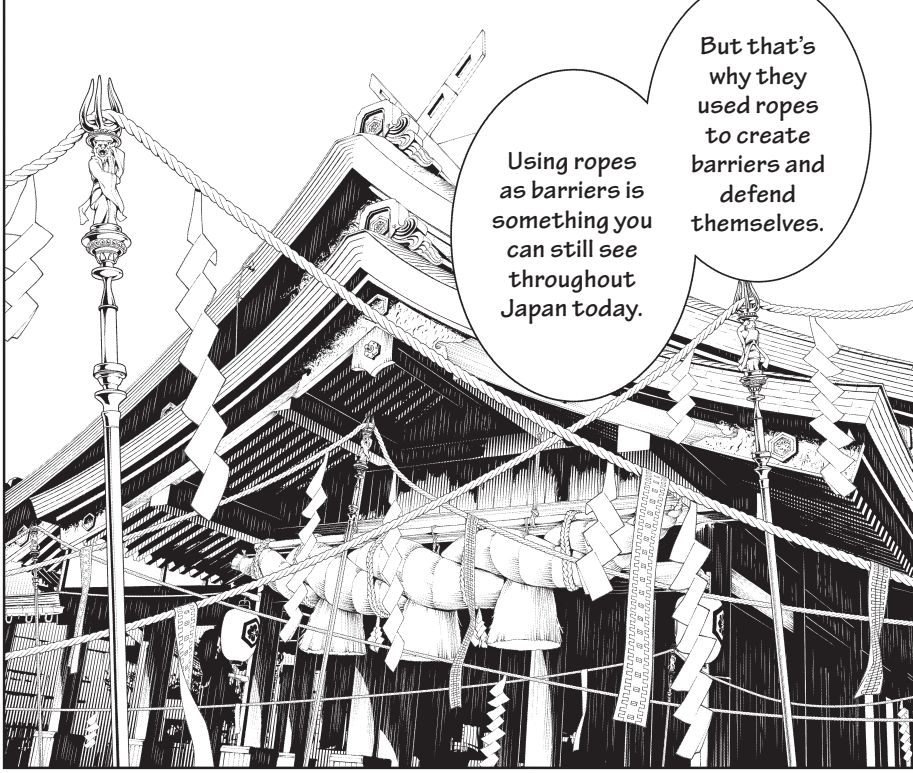
That could easily become a good enough reason for one woman to curse another.
...Or at least that's what Kanbaru said.
I don't really get it myself.

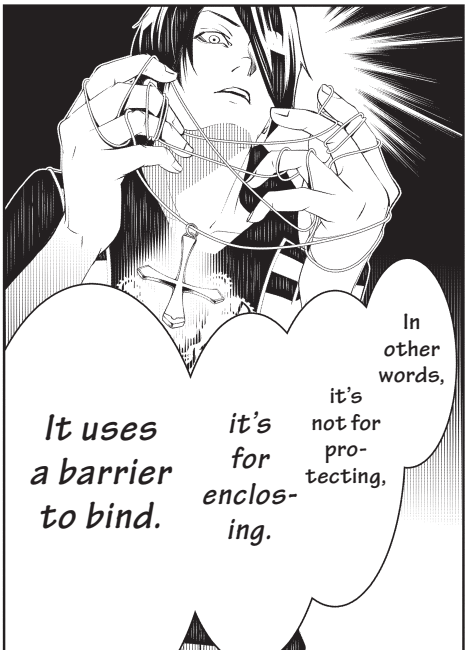

She says she was reading that book to figure out how to undo the curse.
I'm not sure how legitimate it was, of course.
"You can remove a snake curse by killing snakes"—smells fishy to me.

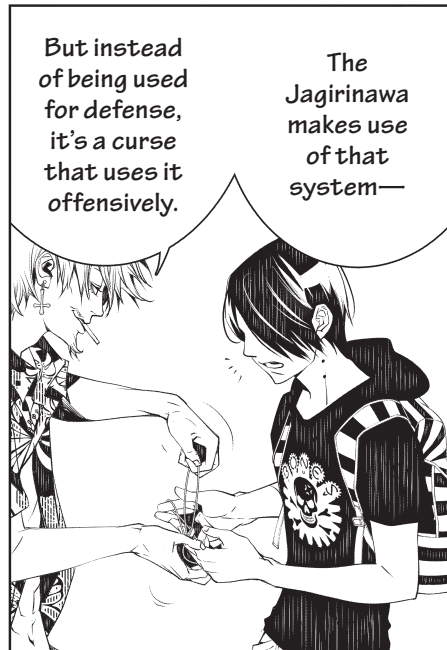

That page alone was so well-worn that the book naturally opened to it.
...That's how I was able to figure it out so quickly myself.
Apparently, she read it again and again—practically every day.

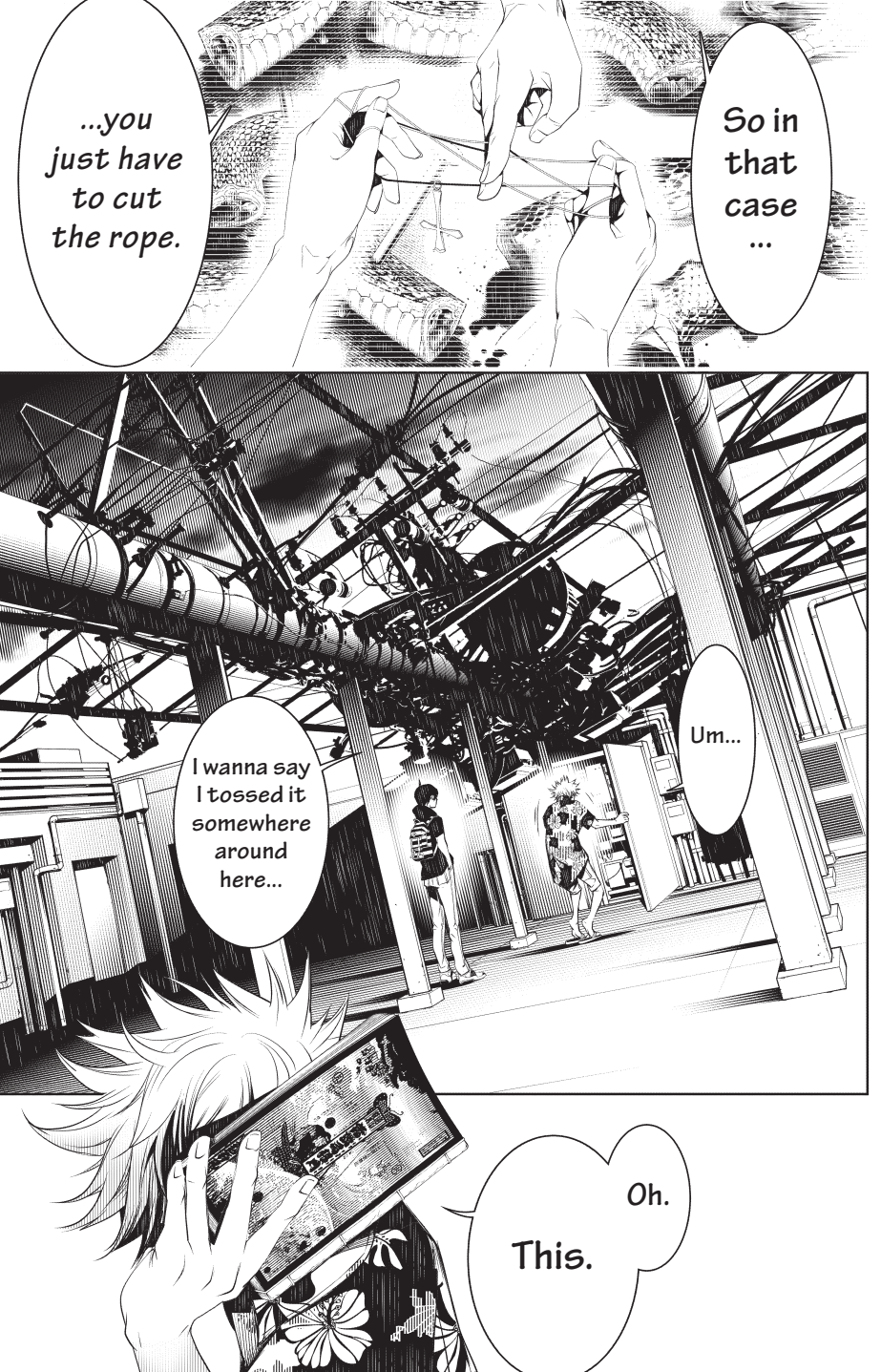
No.
Repelling a Jagirinawa by cutting up snakes isn't wrong.

It's the *nawa* of the Jagirinawa—rope.
What's important here isn't the snake, though.
Really?
What?
You know how *Jomon*-era clay pottery has distinct rope patterns, right?
Some people say those aren't ornamental—they have a deep shamanistic meaning to them.
People in those days believed that sickness was caused by *bad things* inside of food.
...That's how I was able to figure it out so quickly myself.

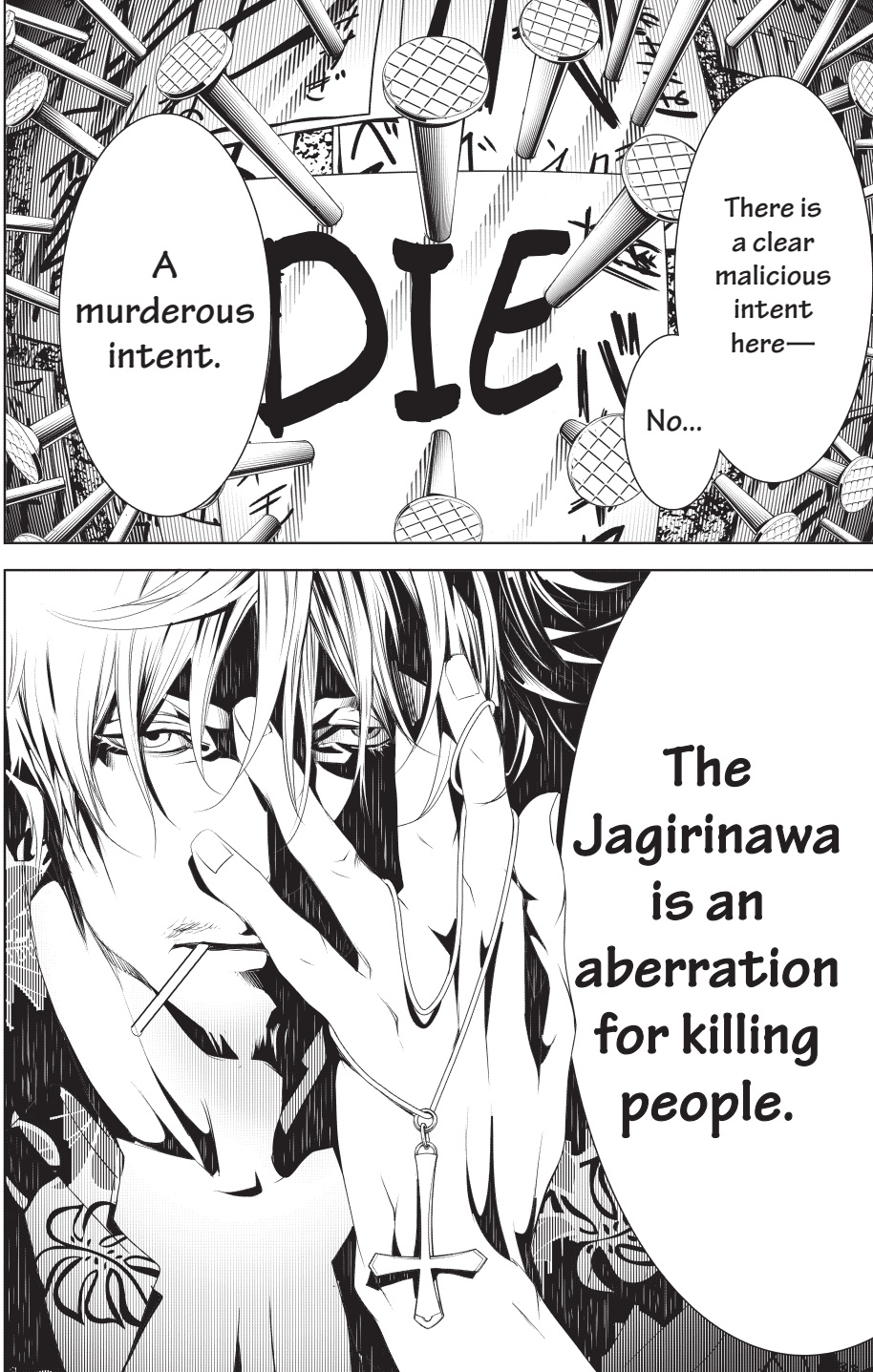

But that's why they used ropes to create barriers and defend themselves.
Using ropes as barriers is something you can still see throughout Japan today.


In other words,
it's not for protecting,
it's for enclosing.
It uses a barrier to bind.


But instead of being used for defense, it's a curse that uses it offensively.
The Jagirinawa makes use of that system—


So in that case ...
...you just have to cut the rope.
Um...
I wanna say I tossed it somewhere around here...
Oh.
This.

PRK
This girl... The snake marks are up to about her neck, right?
If it goes any higher— it's over for her.
In this case, it doesn't matter how much this middle schooler, or whoever it was that placed the curse, understood.


A murderous intent.
DIE
There is a clear malicious intent here—
No...
The Jagirinawa is an aberration for killing people.

AN ABERRATION THAT KILLS

Kan-
baru!
You
have...
to tell
Sengoku
...!!
ZSH

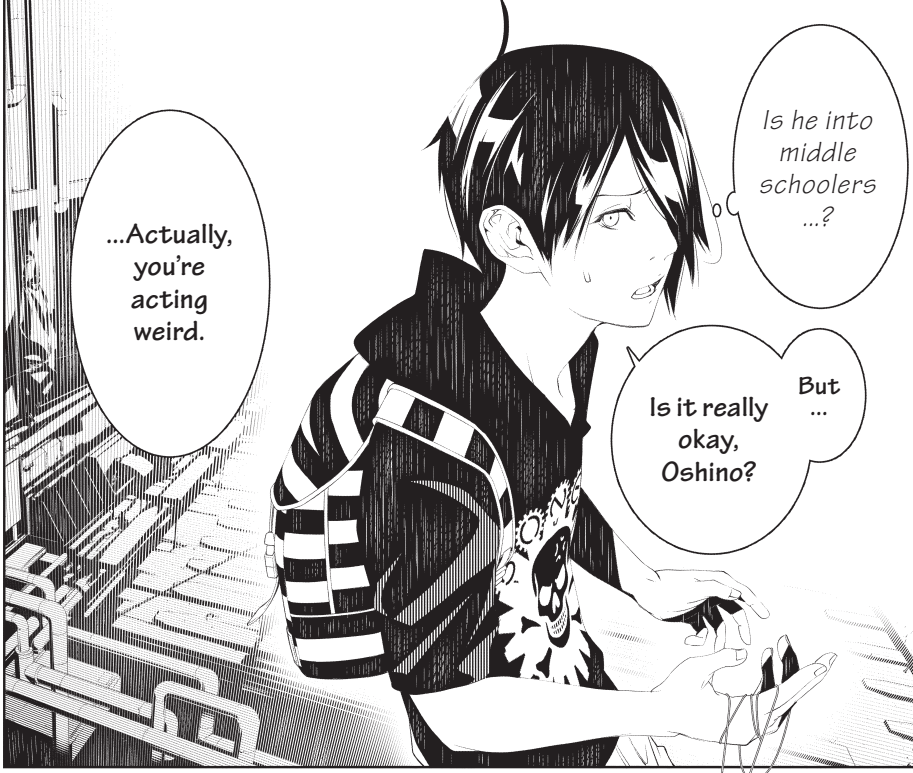
We can tell her that one of her classmates was trying to kill her—but then what?
...Wait, no... What good would that do ...?

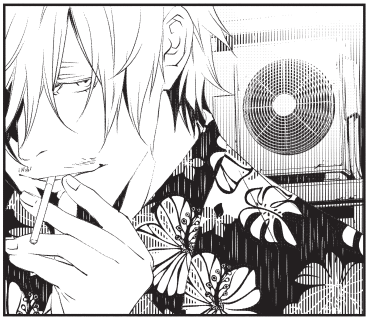
There's no need to make any calls, Araragi.
I'm done here.

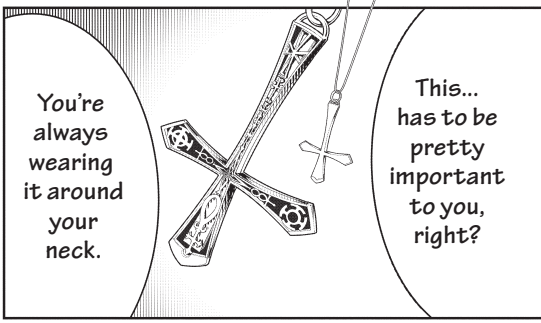
You can exorcise it.
With that.
?
Huh ...?
Oh.

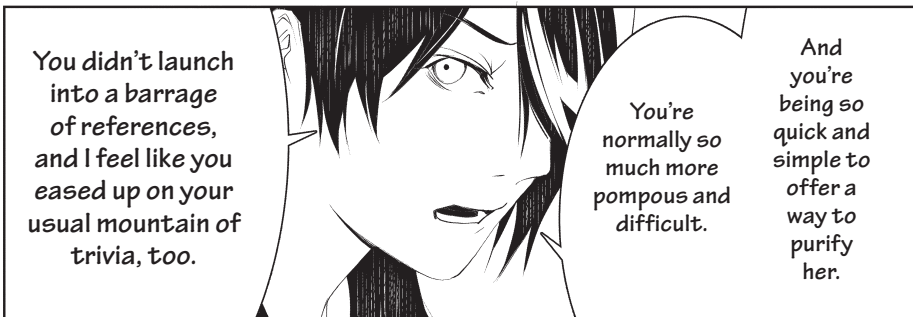
You can see a little rolled-up piece of paper through its openwork, right?
Don't take it out.
It's sort of a powerful amulet. If it were allowed to be *unsheathed*— it'd be dangerous.
Just think of it as the *scabbard* to a sword.
There's no meaning in the fact that it's a cross. it's nothing more than an accessory.
YOU WANT ME TO USE THIS?! I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM!!
WAIT, HOLD ON A SEC-OND!!

She really trusts you, doesn't she?
Missy here—
She wouldn't strip all of a sudden in a man's room otherwise.
I can teach you that part. So do your best to learn before you head back.
Just this once, I actually think you're better suited for this job than I am.
?!!
SORRY, MEANT TO SAY, "I ENVY YOU," BIG BROTHER KOYOMI.
OH, HOW I DETEST YOU...

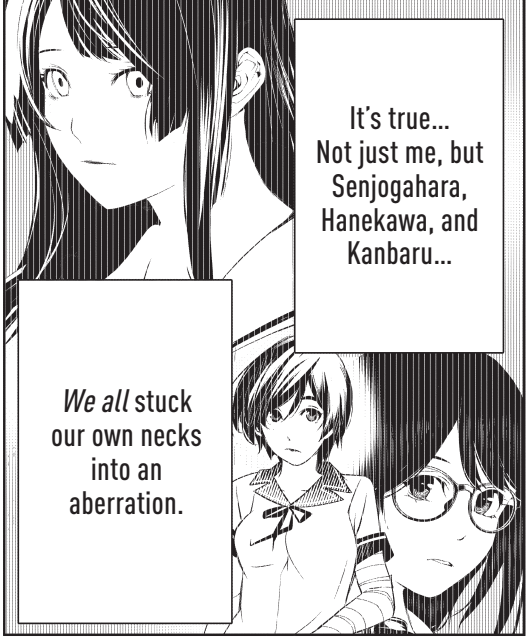

Is he into middle schoolers ...?
But ...
Is it really okay, Oshino?
...Actually, you're acting weird.




This... has to be pretty important to you, right?
You're always wearing it around your neck.

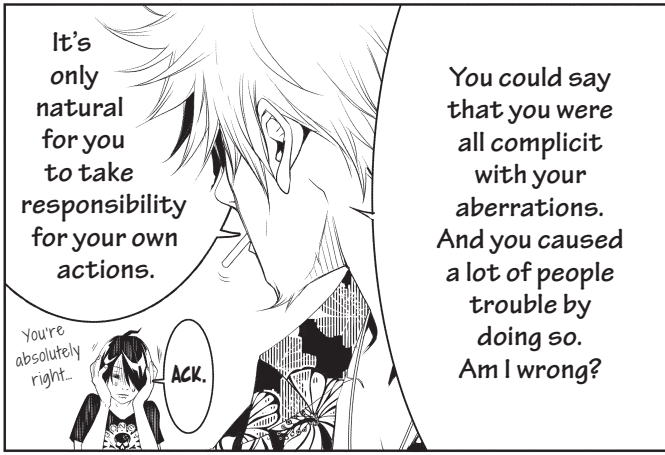

And you're being so quick and simple to offer a way to purify her.
You're normally so much more pompous and difficult.
You didn't launch into a barrage of references, and I feel like you eased up on your usual mountain of trivia, too.

Something good happen to you, Araragi?
Oh, you just love nagging me, don't you? You and I know full well that you'll complain if I do pile on the trivia.
Don't tell me you're not being serious about this now that I don't owe you anything.
You were all perpe-trators.
Isn't that right?

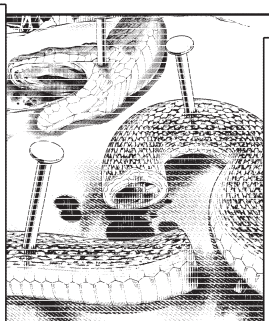


So that's what it is.

But it's different in this case.



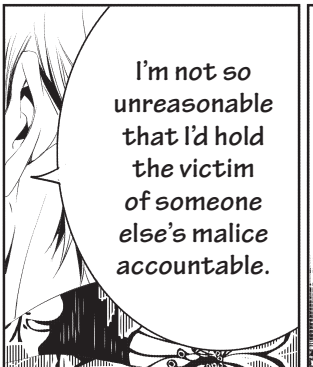
It was in self-defense. She didn't kill them because she wanted to.

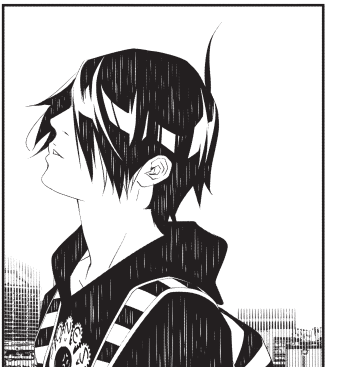


Yes, she may have walked up into the mountains and killed a few dozen snakes, but...

Nadeko Sengoku—is *clearly nothing more than a victim of malice.*

What people like that need— is to be saved.


I'm not so unreasonable that I'd hold the victim of someone else's malice accountable.



I'm sorry, Oshi-no.
All this time, I thought you were acting that way to be mean... about all kinds of things.
Sorry 'bout that.

Missy doesn't need to do a thing for me.
It's fine. This can be the change left over from the work you and Miss Sapphy did for me.
... Okay.

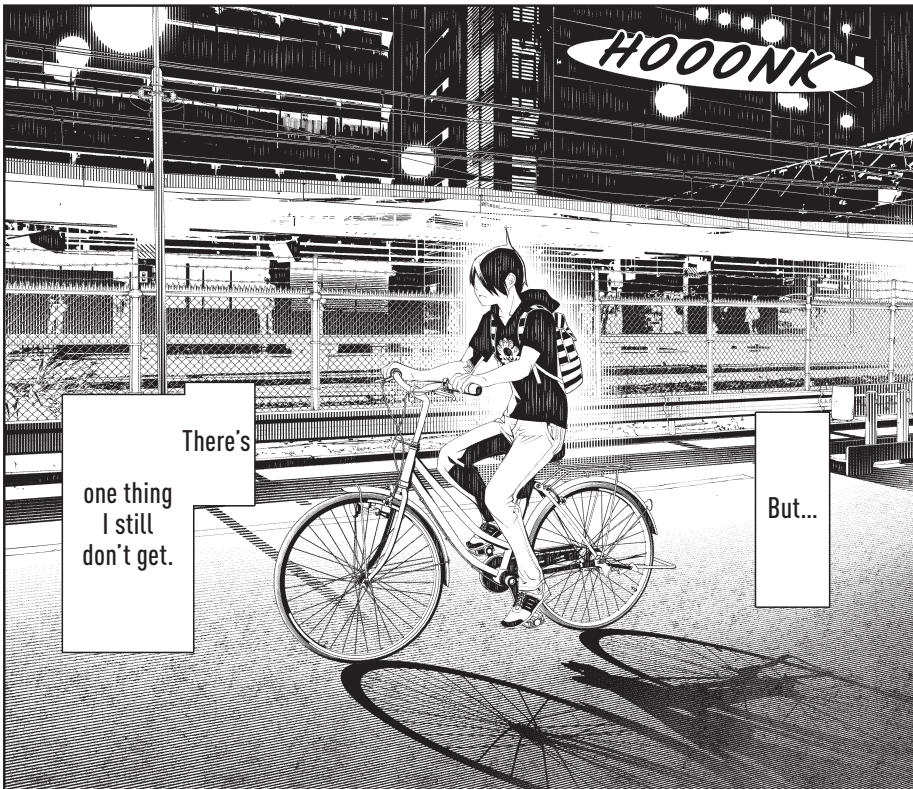
I feel like... maybe we finally understand one another for the first time.

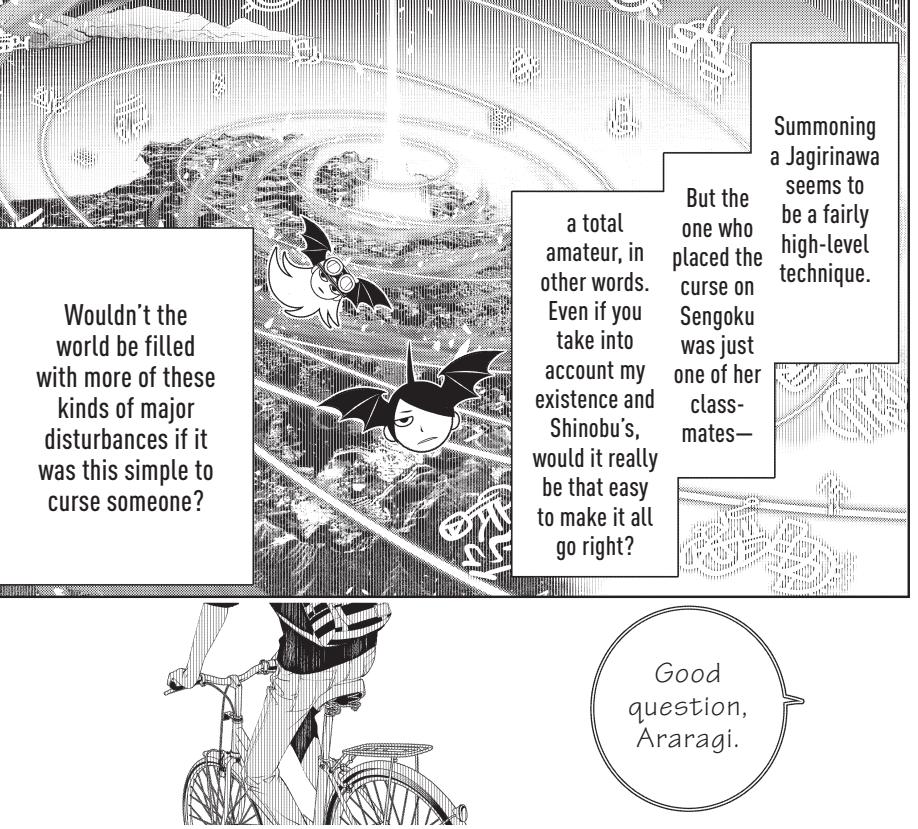
Oshino.

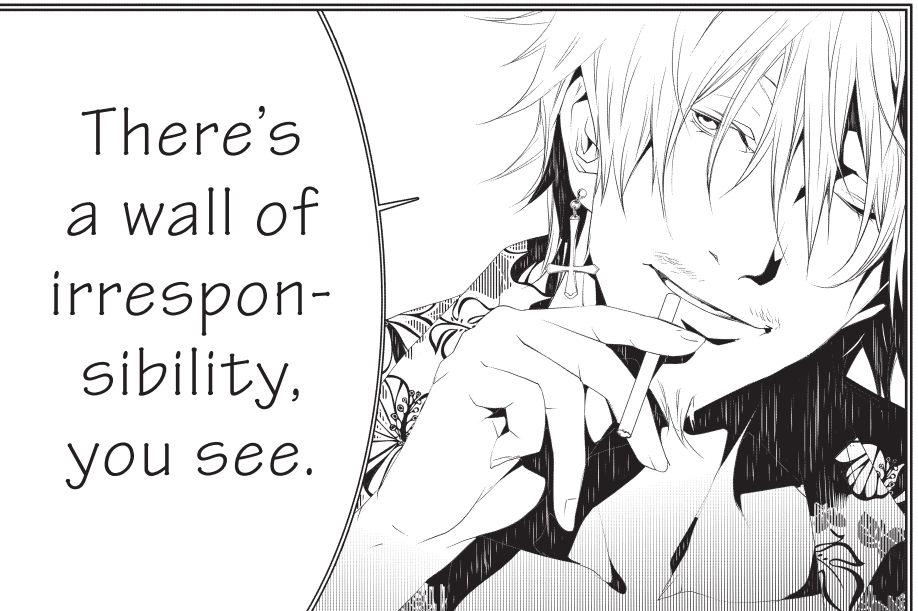
Yeah, you're right.

...It does feel like you're playing favorites by going this far, but...

I see ...


HOOONK
There's one thing I still don't get.
But...

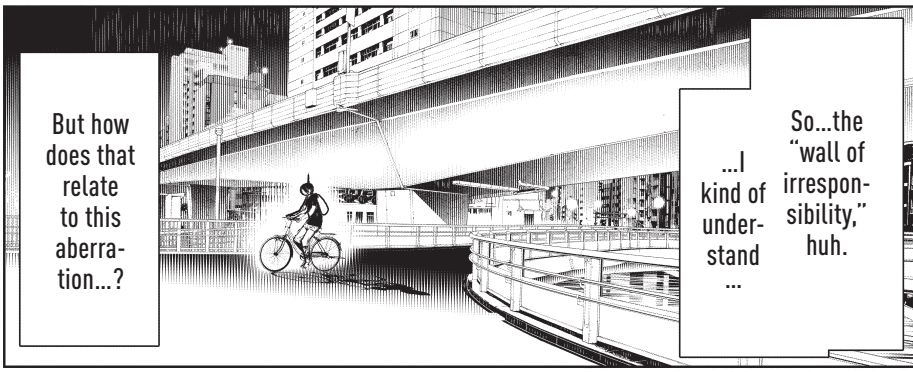

Summoning a Jagirinawa seems to be a fairly high-level technique.
But the one who placed the curse on Sengoku was just one of her class-mates—
a total amateur, in other words. Even if you take into account my existence and Shinobu's, would it really be that easy to make it all go right?
Wouldn't the world be filled with more of these kinds of major disturbances if it was this simple to curse someone?

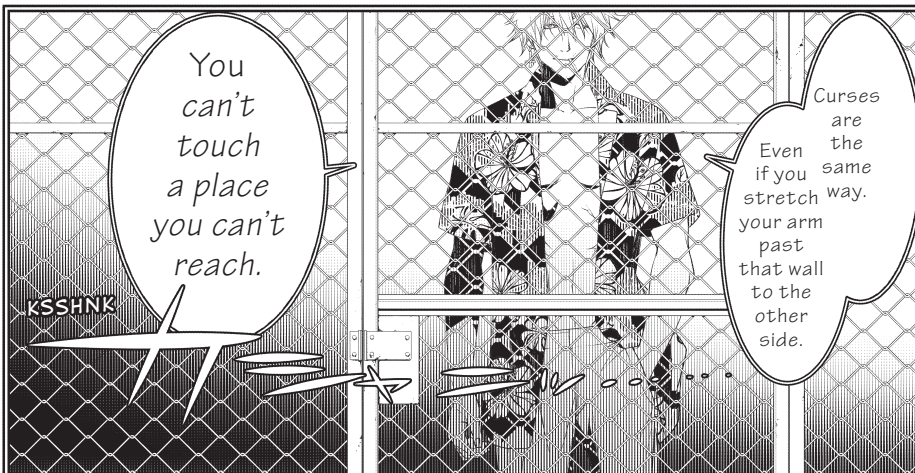

Good question, Araragi.
There's a wall of irrespon-sibility, you see.

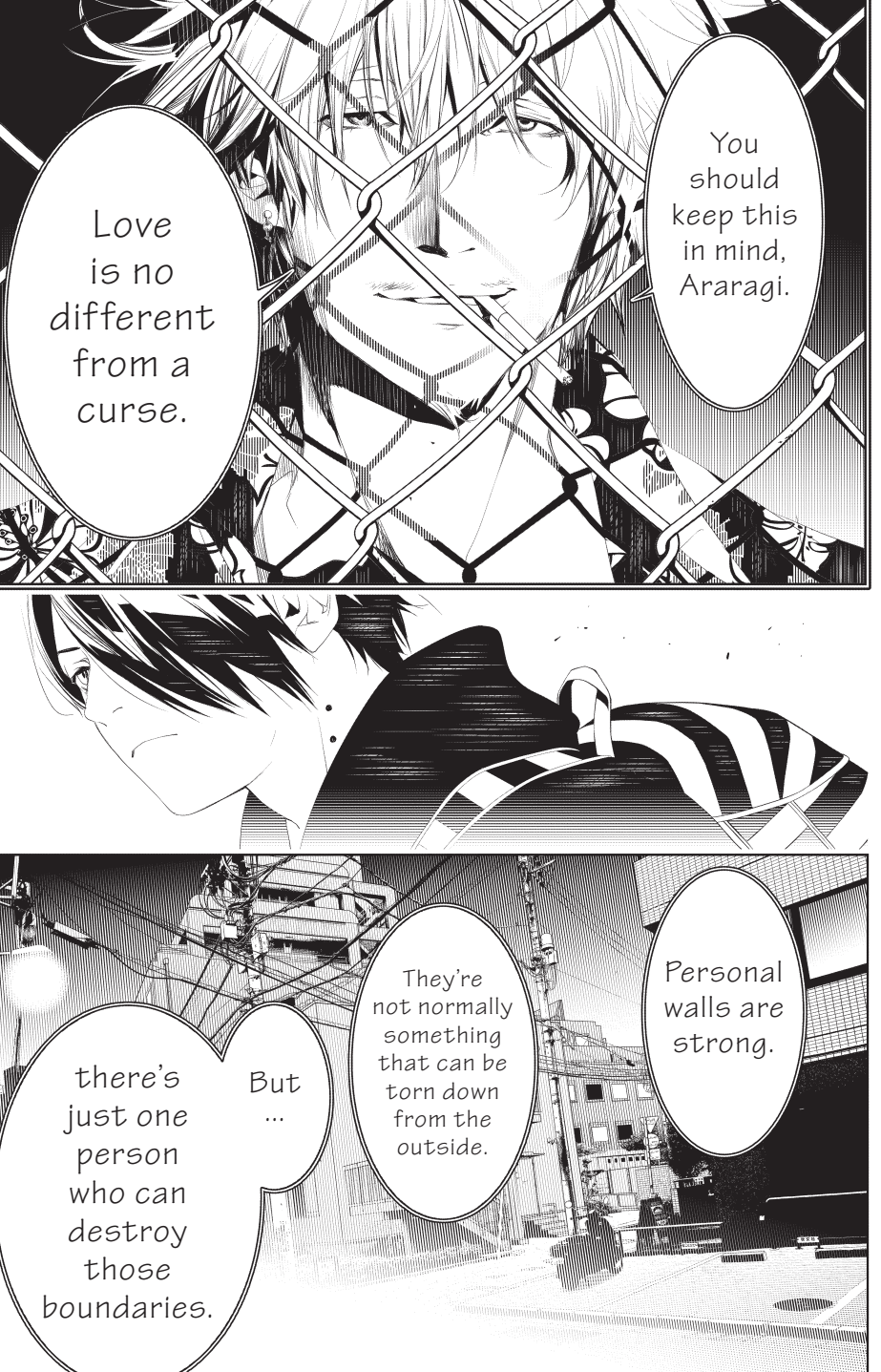
I mean, it exists between everyone...
Even between you and me, right? We both have to wonder to what degree we should get involved in each other's lives.
Maybe you could call it the distance you put between yourself and someone else, accepting them or rejecting them.
It's this personal space...
...that creates a kind of barrier.
Something that *ropes off one side from another.*
A kind of boundary, so to speak.

Some-thing? ...Like what?
Well... Maybe your-self, maybe your family.
Maybe profits, secrets, friends... All kinds of things.
But what they all share is that they're meant to protect something, no?
The question of where to draw that boundary—of how much distance you keep—differs from person to person, as does its intensity.
In other words, it's the extent to which you can shoulder responsibility—is what I'm saying.
The extent of what they can touch.
Maybe you could call it that person's ability to act.

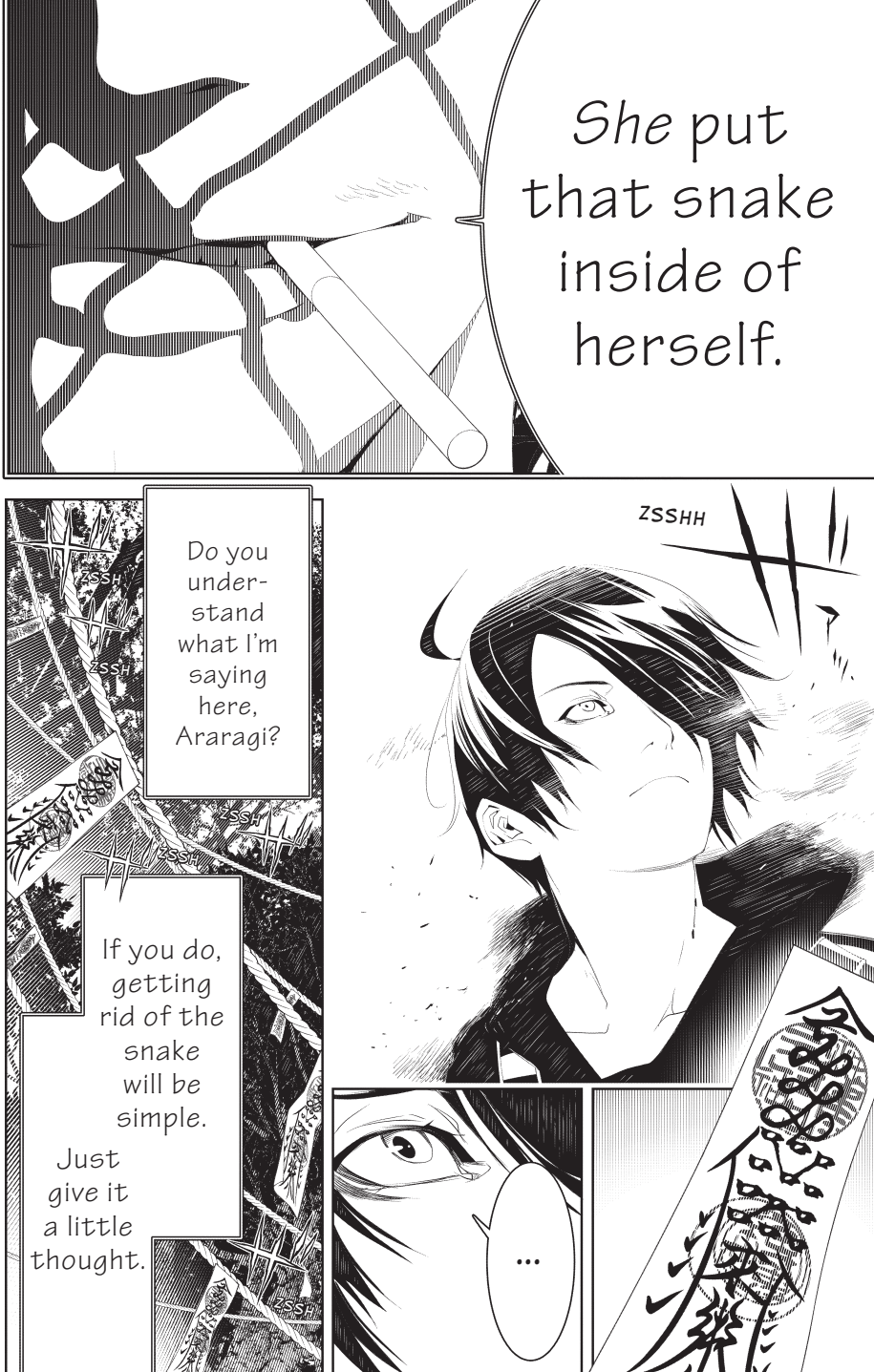
KREAK
No matter what happens, you can't take responsibility.
In the end, once you go past that— there's nothing you can do.

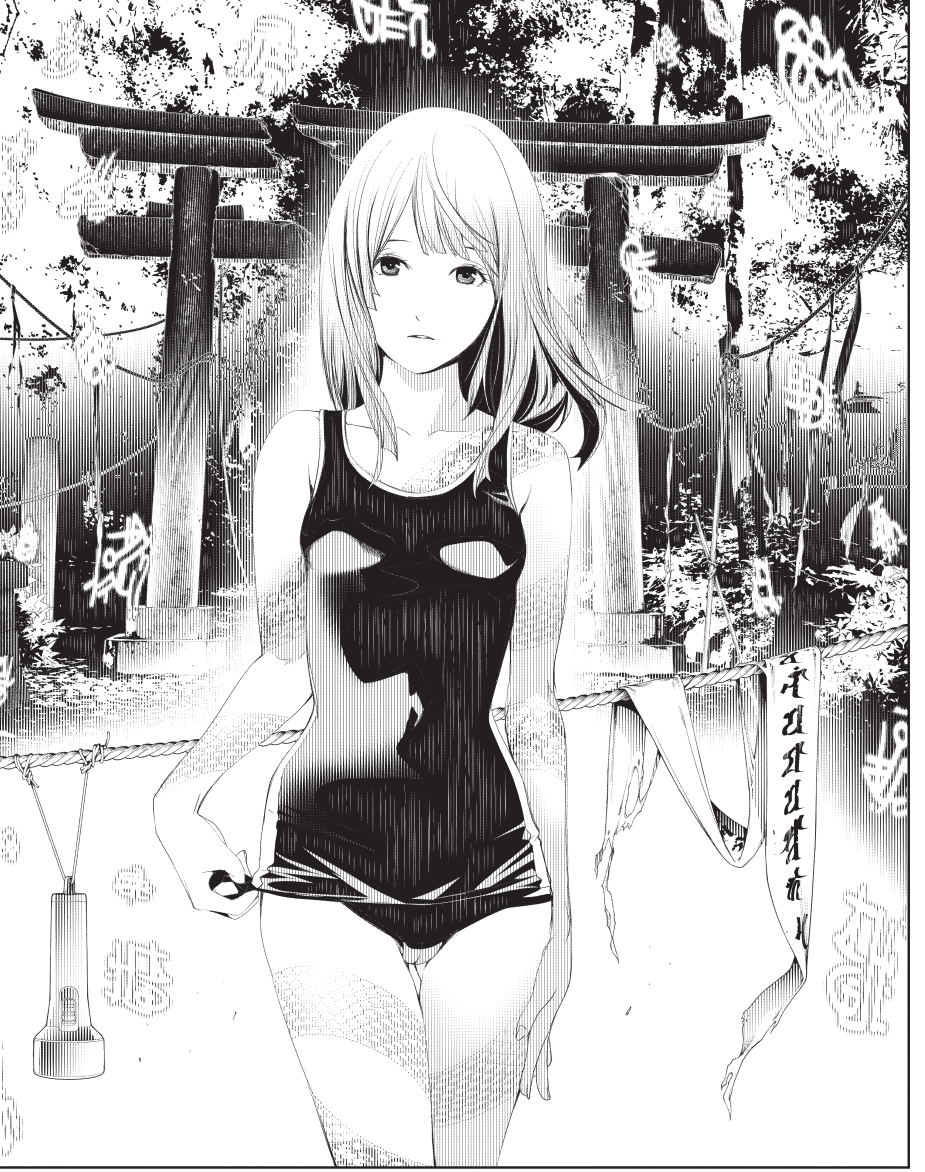

But how does that relate to this aberration...?
...I kind of understand...
So...the "wall of irresponsibility," huh.

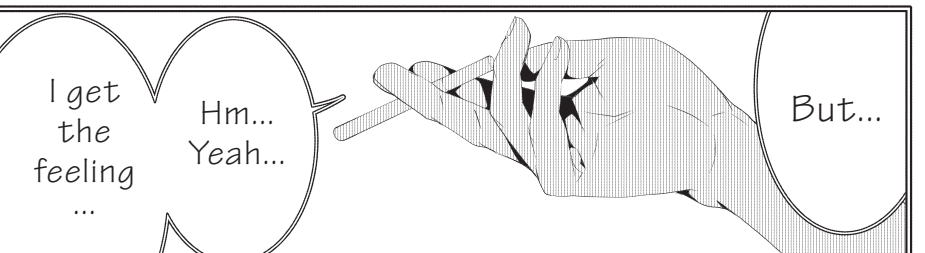

You can't touch a place you can't reach.
KSSHNK
Even if you stretch your arm past that wall to the other side.
Curses are the same way.


You should keep this in mind, Araragi.
Love is no different from a curse.
Personal walls are strong.
They're not normally something that can be torn down from the outside.
But ...
there's just one person who can destroy those boundaries.

It's
Missy
herself.

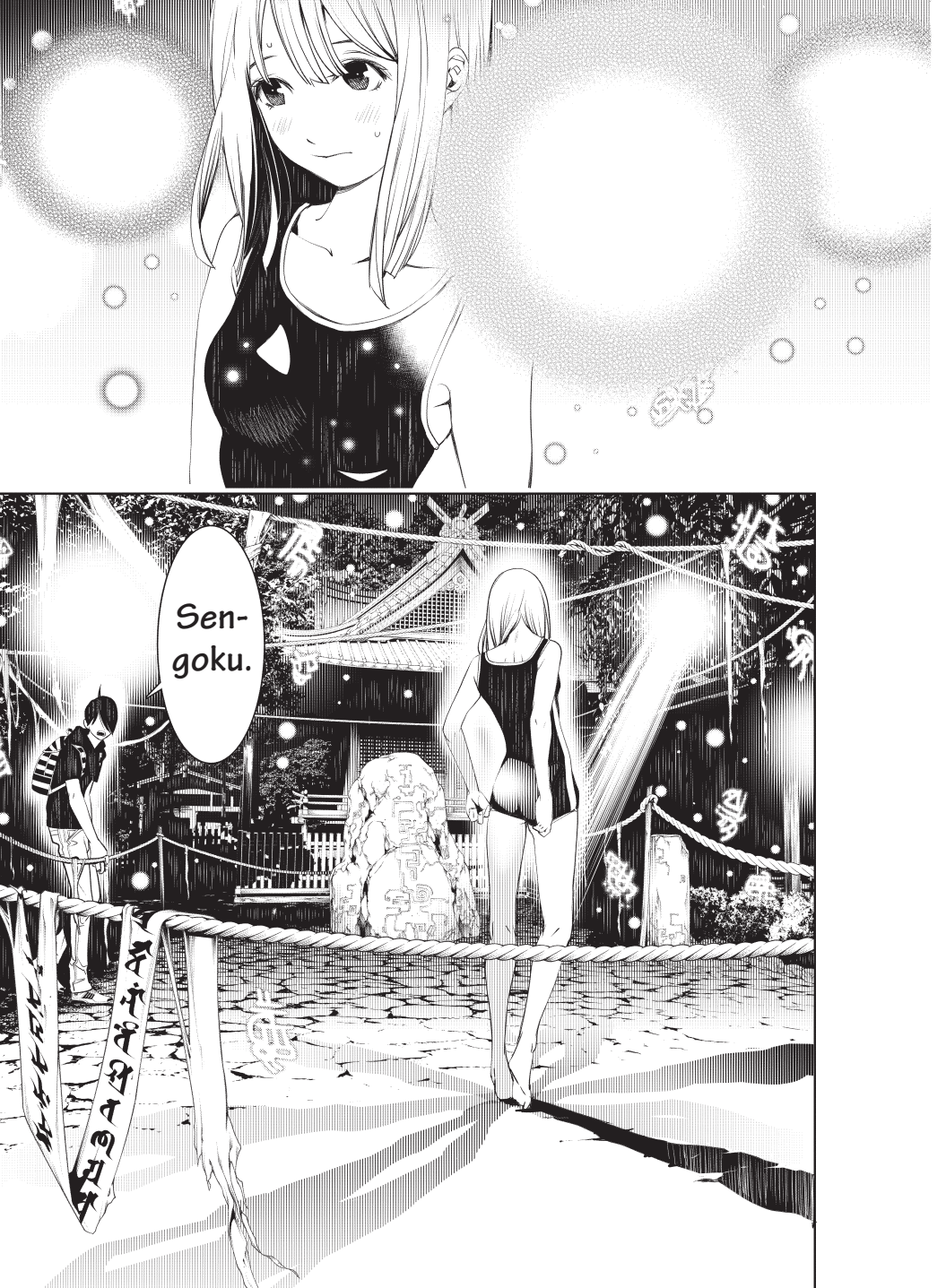

She put that snake inside of herself.
ZSSHH
...
Do you understand what I'm saying here, Araragi?
If you do, getting rid of the snake will be simple.
Just give it a little thought.
ZSSH

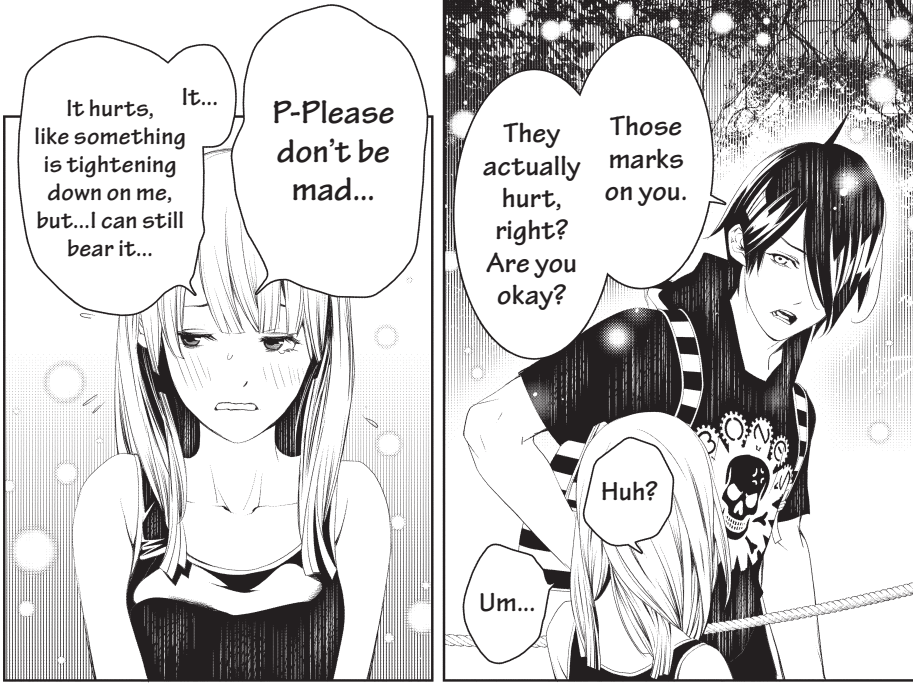



I get the feeling ...
Hm... Yeah...
But...

...that the reality of the situation...

...is going to be pretty tough on you.


Sen-
goku.


Those marks on you.
They actually hurt, right? Are you okay?
Huh?
Um...
P-Please don't be mad...
It...
It hurts, like something is tightening down on me, but...I can still bear it...

No, I'm not trying to blame you for anything.
You shouldn't have to bear it in the first place.
If something hurts— it's okay to say so.
Um... Yeah... Sorr—ah... Okay.

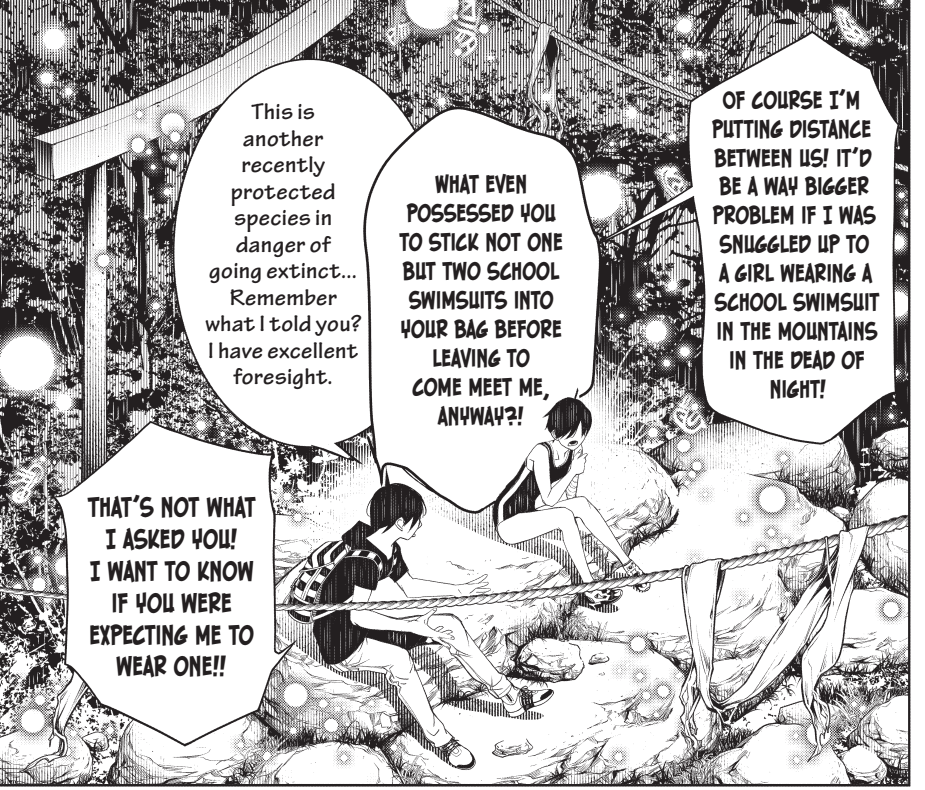
If anything happens, just speak up.
You can do this.
KLINK
OKAY. I'LL TRY MY BEST.
WILL YOU PROMISE TO WATCH ME?
Of course.
Oshino taught me...
...the ritual to purify someone of a Jagiri-nawa.

You have to watch.
Watch over me, Big Brother Koyomi.
Just use this talisman— to pray.
The way to drive it away was incredibly simple.

That's it.
Stand inside this boundary—and just keep praying.
Close your eyes, steady your breathing.
...
?!
...
Man, she's so cute.
Well, I know romance is a little different for everyone.
Ah.
Why do you think Sengoku turned down that boy?
It's only natural that tons of boys are trying to flirt with her... But still...

But according to what I heard ...
...there's apparently someone SHE'S BEEN IN LOVE WITH FOR A REALLY LONG TIME.

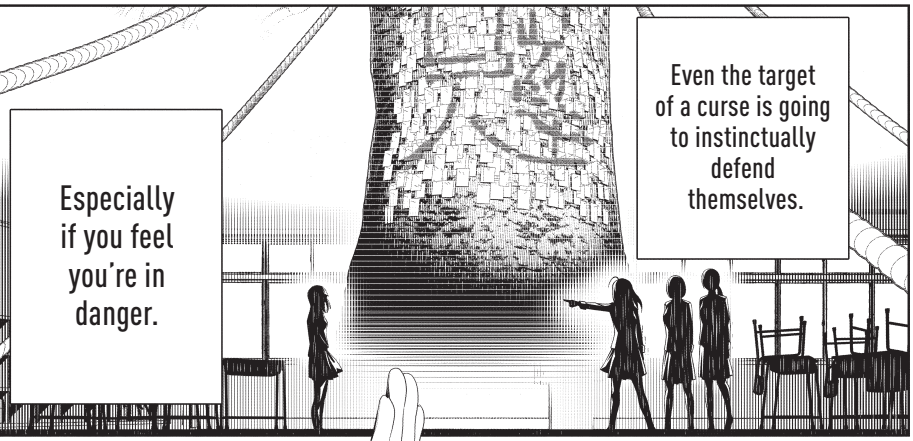
Huh.
Well, that kind of thing does happen.
I wonder who it is, the lucky bastard.
...
By the way, my dear senior.
Is it me, or did this strange distance between the two of us not exist until fairly recently?


This is another recently protected species in danger of going extinct... Remember what I told you? I have excellent foresight.
WHAT EVEN POSSESSED YOU TO STICK NOT ONE BUT TWO SCHOOL SWIMSUITS INTO YOUR BAG BEFORE LEAVING TO COME MEET ME, ANYWAY?!
OF COURSE I'M PUTTING DISTANCE BETWEEN US! IT'D BE A WAY BIGGER PROBLEM IF I WAS SNUGGLED UP TO A GIRL WEARING A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT IN THE MOUNTAINS IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED YOU! I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU WERE EXPECTING ME TO WEAR ONE!!

I see. So you're not denying that it's to your taste?
AGH...
WELL, DON'T.
I was just trying to play to your tastes.

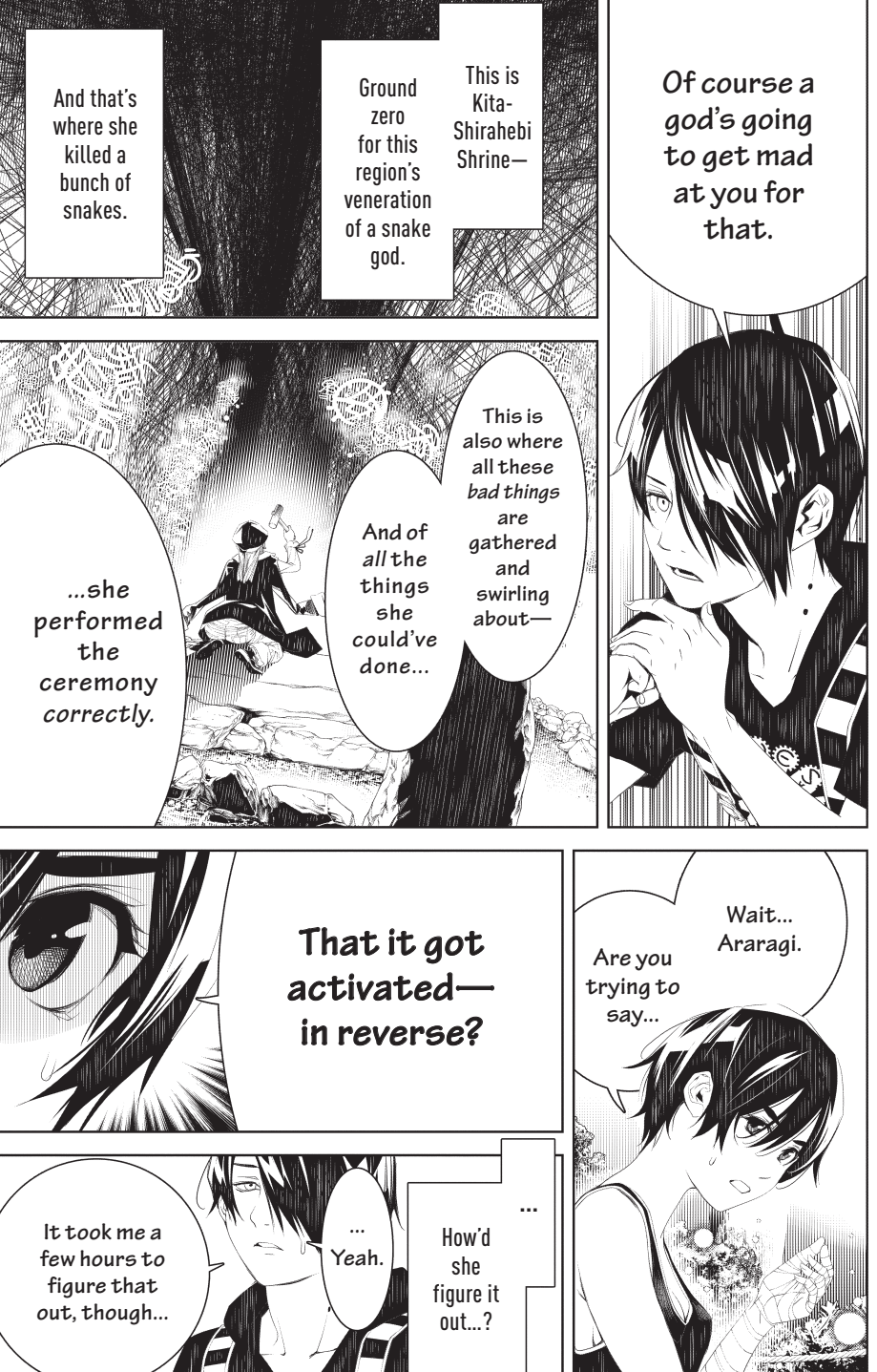
?!!
SMAK
FSSHT
...
Heh...
Heh
TRMBL
TRMBL

Still... I don't see why we had to go to the trouble of doing all this... Was there something wrong with the way she was doing things?
You know, the serpent-slaying she stoutly carried out?
That's one hell of a way to put it...
SLIDE スリ
SLIDE ズ
We can't do that.
There was nothing wrong with the method itself—in fact, that was apparently the correct measure to take.
But in this case— it could expose her to danger.



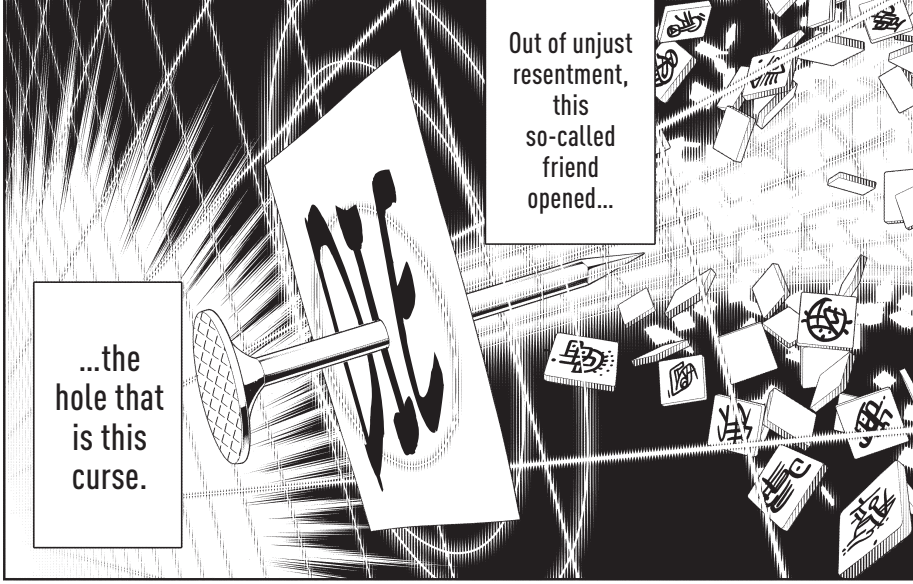
Self-defense (自衛) / Shut out (遮断) / Interception (迎撃) / Wall (壁) / Resist (対抗) / Defense (防衛) /Defend to death (死守) /Firm (強固) / Strong defense (堅守) /Self-protection (護身) /Protection (防御)

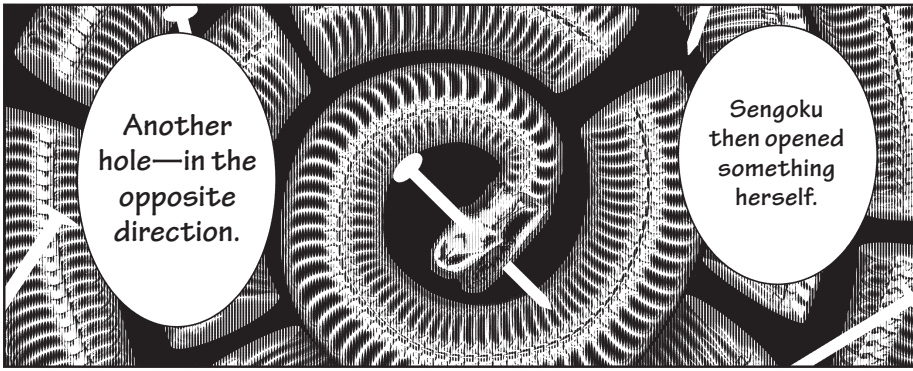
So... a curse normally wouldn't have reached Sengoku even if it was placed on her.
A curse from a middle-school-aged total amateur shouldn't have been activated in the first place.
But Sengoku took it seriously, looking into curses at the book-store.
And then she just happened to come here, where there are lots of snakes.
And here is where she messed up by performing a curse-breaking ceremony that involves chopping up snakes.

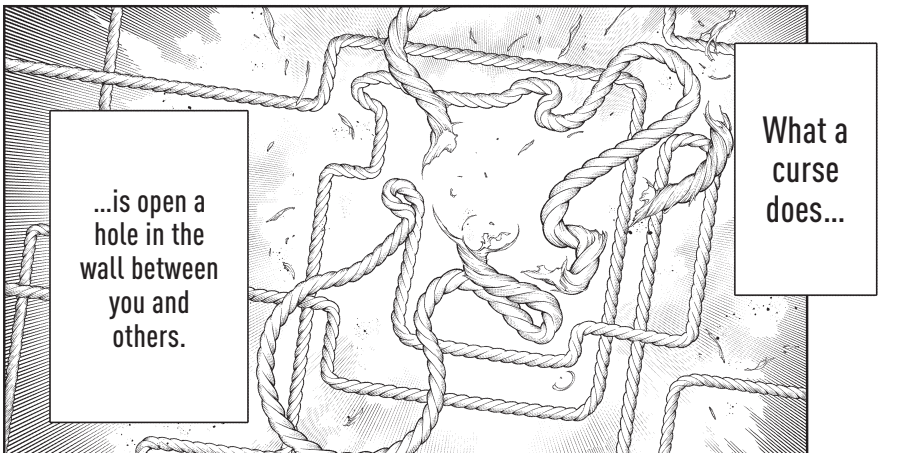

And that's where she killed a bunch of snakes.
Ground zero for this region's veneration of a snake god.
This is Kita-Shirahebi Shrine—
Of course a god's going to get mad at you for that.
...she performed the ceremony *correctly.*
And of *all* the things she could've done...
This is also where all these *bad things* are gathered and swirling about—
That it got activated—in reverse?
It took me a few hours to figure that out, though...
...
Yeah.
How'd she figure it out...?
...
Are you trying to say...
Wait... Araragi.

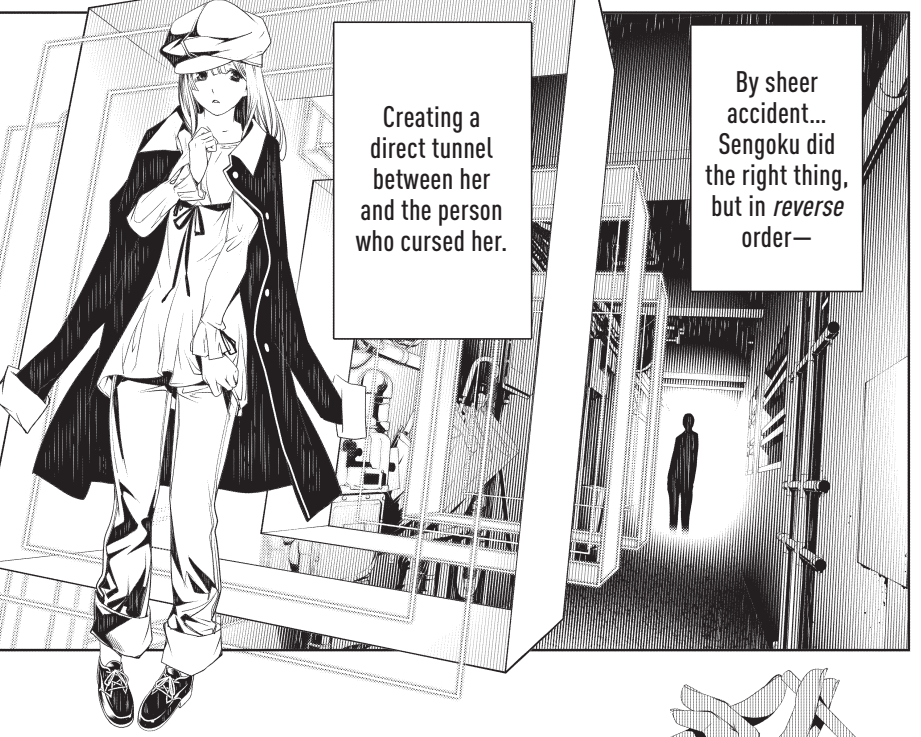
What's important...
...is the order of things.
How it's put together.
Like Oshino always says.
That's right—
It's about the location.
With Senjogahara, with Kanbaru, with Hachikuji—
All their aberrations manifested after all the conditions were met, each one in order.

This is just according to what I read online.
But apparently, the Japanese character for "curse" comes from shapes representing a mouth and a person.
A mouth. In other words...
A "hole," right?
A "hole" you use to put your thoughts out into the world.
One for words.
And a "hole" can have two meanings associated with it.
Letting things in.
And ...
letting things out.

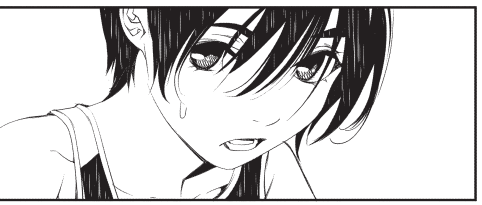

Out of unjust resentment, this so-called friend opened...
...the hole that is this curse.

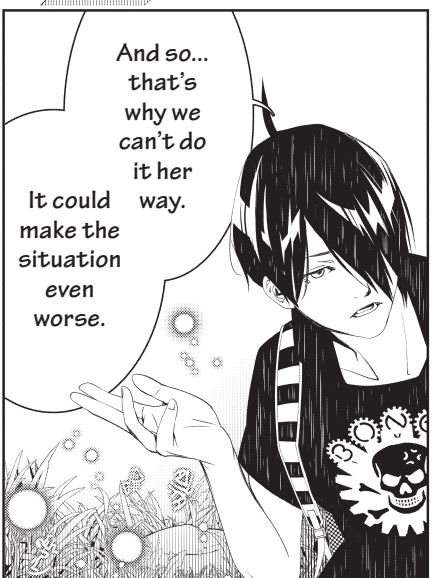

Another hole—in the opposite direction.
Sengoku then opened something herself.


What a curse does...
...is open a hole in the wall between you and others.



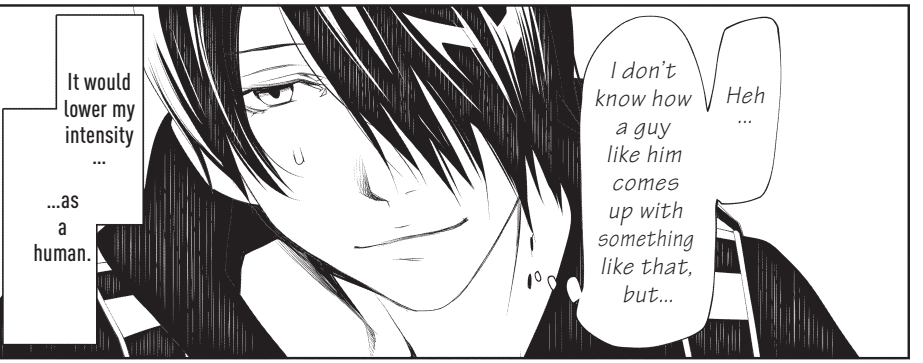
"*She* put that snake inside of herself."

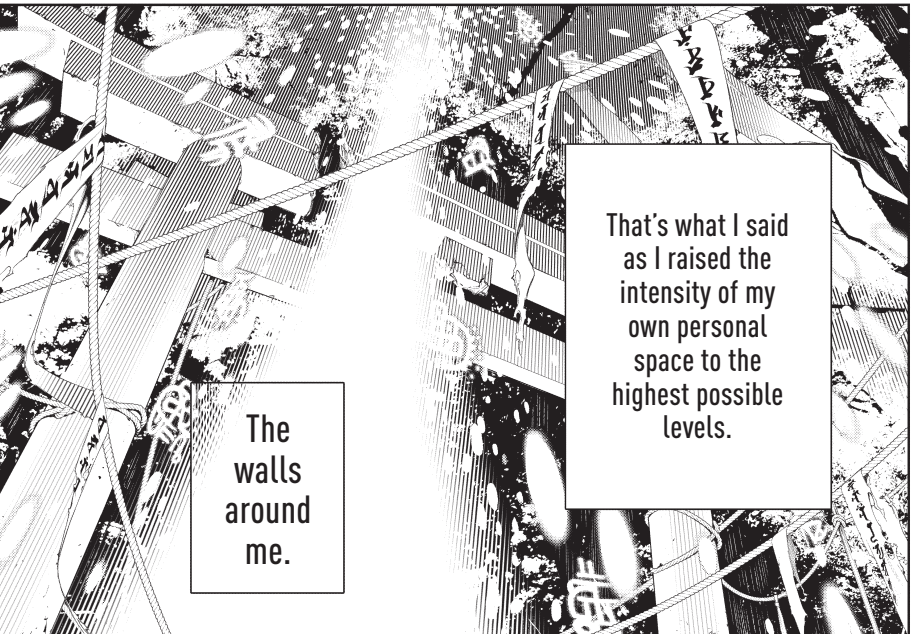




IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU REACHED THAT ANSWER ON YOUR OWN, MY SENIOR ARARAGI.
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING.
Er, no... Oshino gave me plenty of hints.
Anyone could've figured something like this out...
HEHEH. OH, YOU! ♡
No.
That's— a lie.
Even with hints... I doubt I'd have been able to understand any of this just a few months earlier.

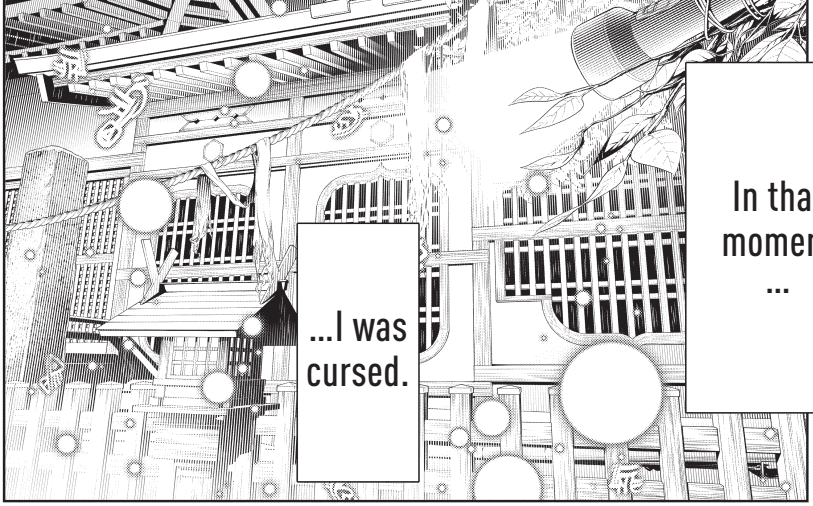
...is no different from a curse, you know.
Love...

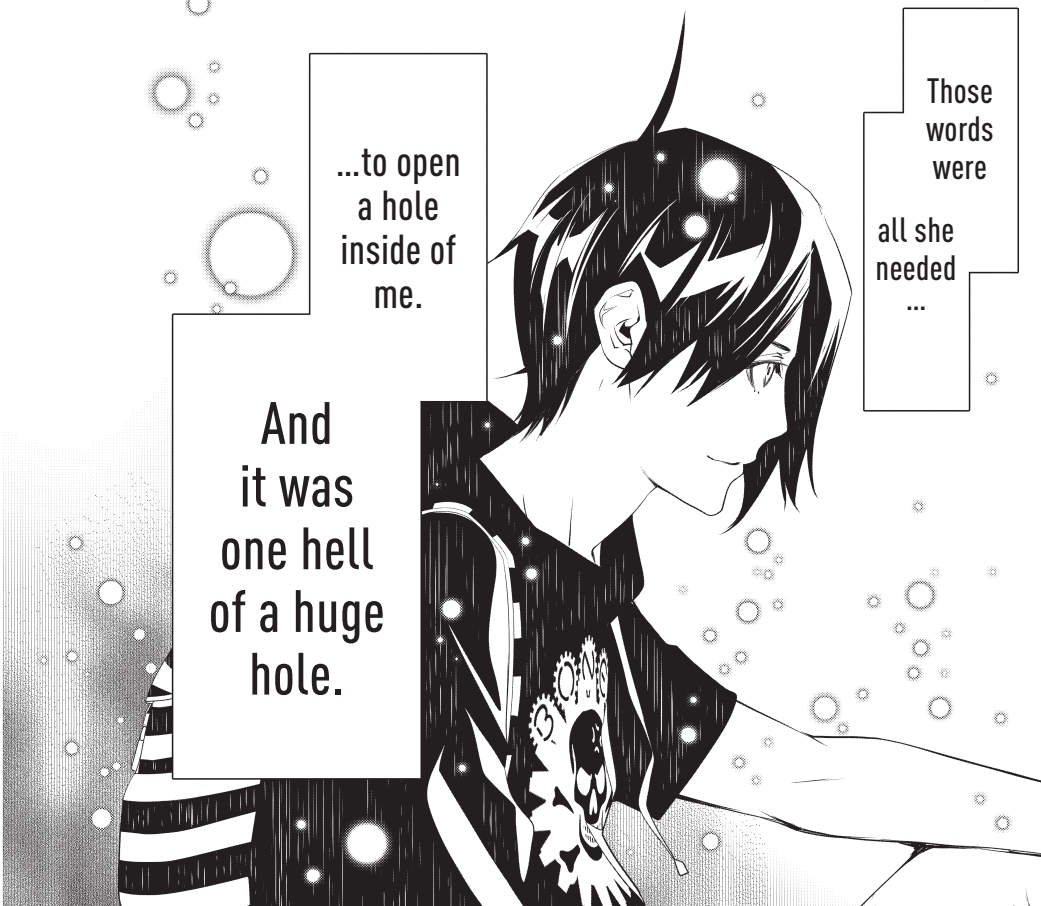

It would lower my intensity ...
...as a human.
I don't know how a guy like him comes up with something like that, but...
Heh ...


The walls around me.
That's what I said as I raised the intensity of my own personal space to the highest possible levels.

I
love

you.


In that moment ...
...I was cursed.


Those words were all she needed ...
...to open a hole inside of me.
And it was one hell of a huge hole.

祓
Exorcise
SPSH
PSH
BAKEMONOGATARI

BAKEMONOGATARI

PLING
SLITHER
Mgh!
... Hyah !
SHIVER
SHIVER

TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
Ah ...!
TWITCH
TWITCH
SHIVER
SHIVER
Nngh!
SHIVER
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHIVER
SHUDDER
Unngh !
SHAKE
Ugh ...!!
TWITCH
TWITCH

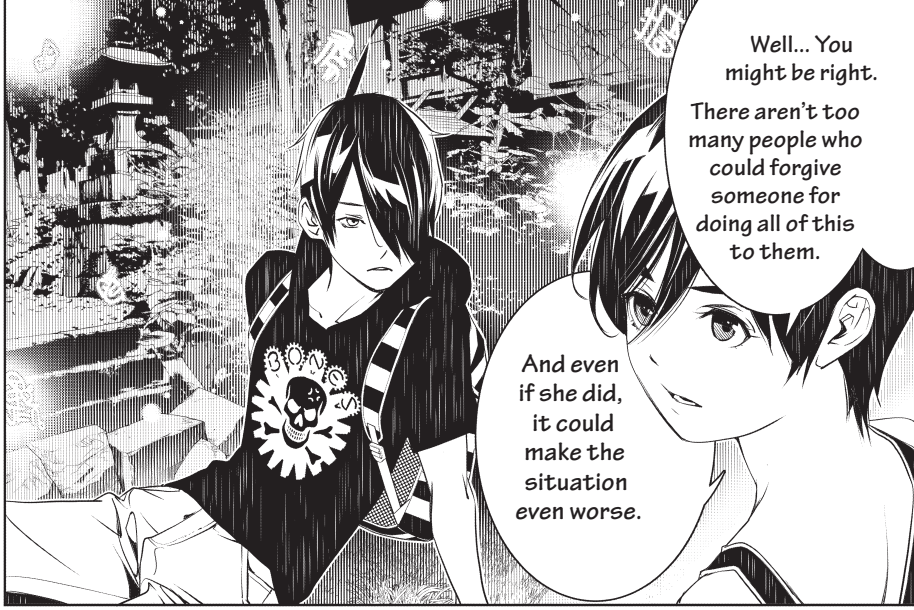
MY SENIOR ARA-RAGI!!!
SHAKE
Hngh!
SHAKE
Ah!
It's okay.

FWUH
SWOOSH
YANK
PWEEE
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL

FSSST
The scale marks... They're disap-pearing!!
...!!

JOKER
JOKER
Oshino was saying it could take all night... But only ten minutes have passed so far.
Phew.
Given my own presence, which I've been told tends to jinx everything—this honestly feels unexpected...
Looks like this is going to go smoothly.

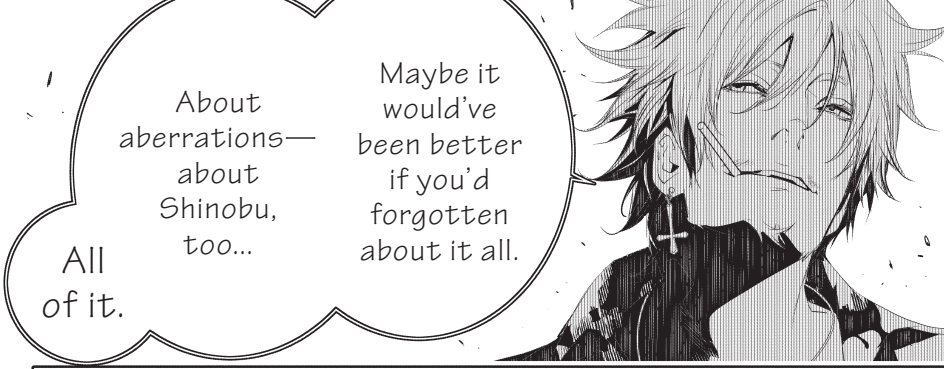
Great ...
Yeah.
... Still... That said...
It's not as if... it's all over after this.
At the very least, her relationship with that old friend...
...is going to be irreparably broken.
ZSSSSH
FSSSH


Well... You might be right.
There aren't too many people who could forgive someone for doing all of this to them.
And even if she did, it could make the situation even worse.

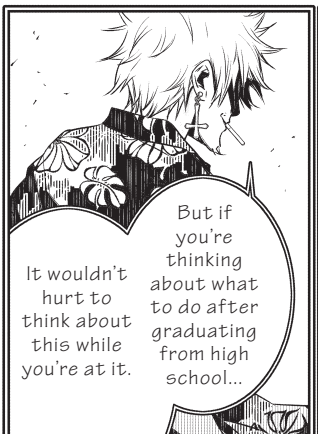
Why ...?
People don't like it when you act like a saint.
You'd be treated a lot better playing a bad guy.
Acting like a saint makes people around you feel inferior.
It's like you said, my dear senior.
It doesn't make sense for you to bear it in the first place.
If you feel like getting angry—you ought to get angry.

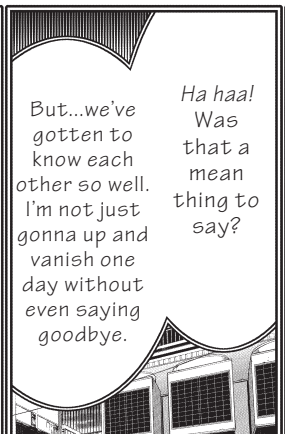
...I HAVE TO SAY, THOUGH. YOU REALLY DO SAVE EVERYONE YOU POSSIBLY CAN, DON'T YOU?
PLUS, YOU'RE PART-VAMPIRE, RIGHT?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE SOME KIND OF DARK HERO OUT OF A MANGA OR ANIME.

...
But what am I supposed to do in the first place? Once I find out about those kinds of things,
it's not like I can look the other way or pretend not to know.
You know, Araragi...


Maybe it would've been better if you'd forgotten about it all.
About aberrations—about Shinobu, too...
All of it.

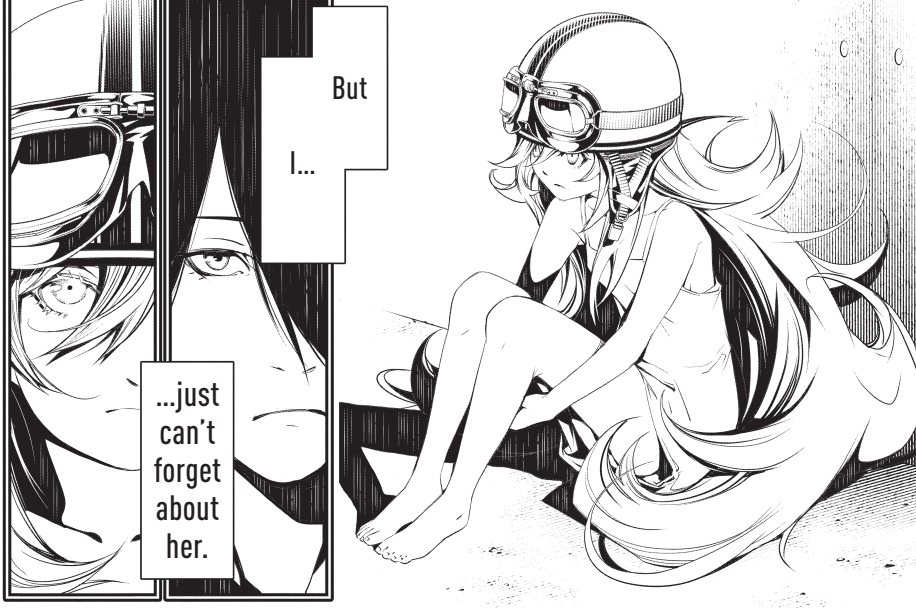
Shi-nobu?
She isn't human, okay?
That's something you always gotta keep in mind.
If I disappear, you're going to have to look after her all on your own, you know.
カギを閉めましょう！
STRICTLY PROHIBITED
DON'T LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN

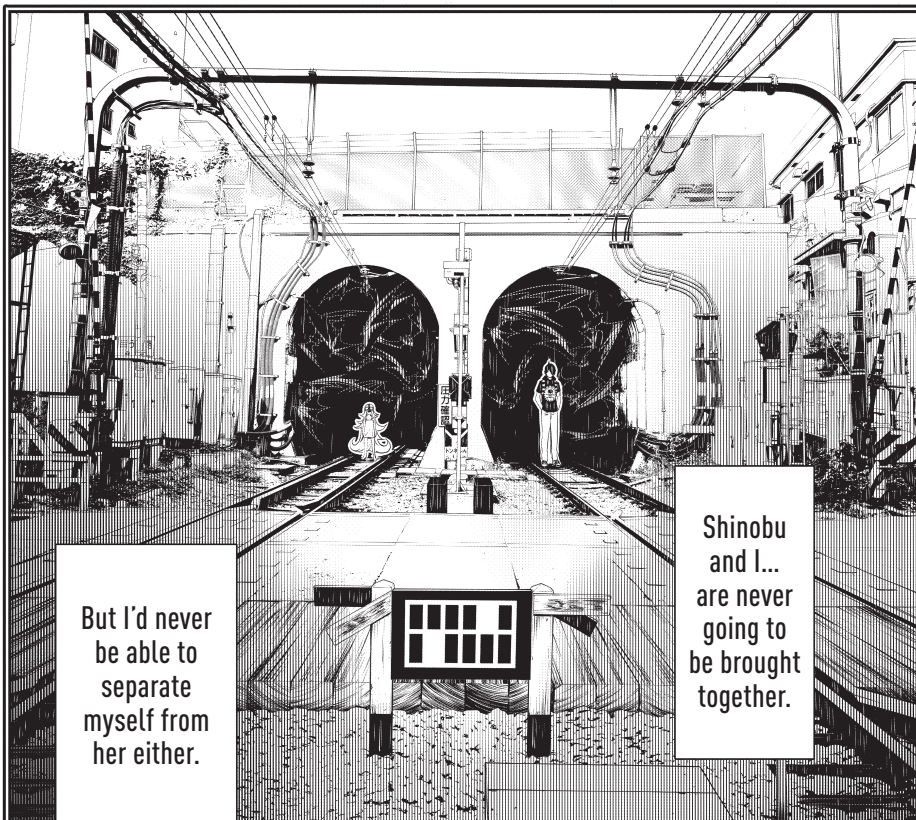

But if you're thinking about what to do after graduating from high school...
It wouldn't hurt to think about this while you're at it.


But...we've gotten to know each other so well. I'm not just gonna up and vanish one day without even saying goodbye.
Ha haa! Was that a mean thing to say?

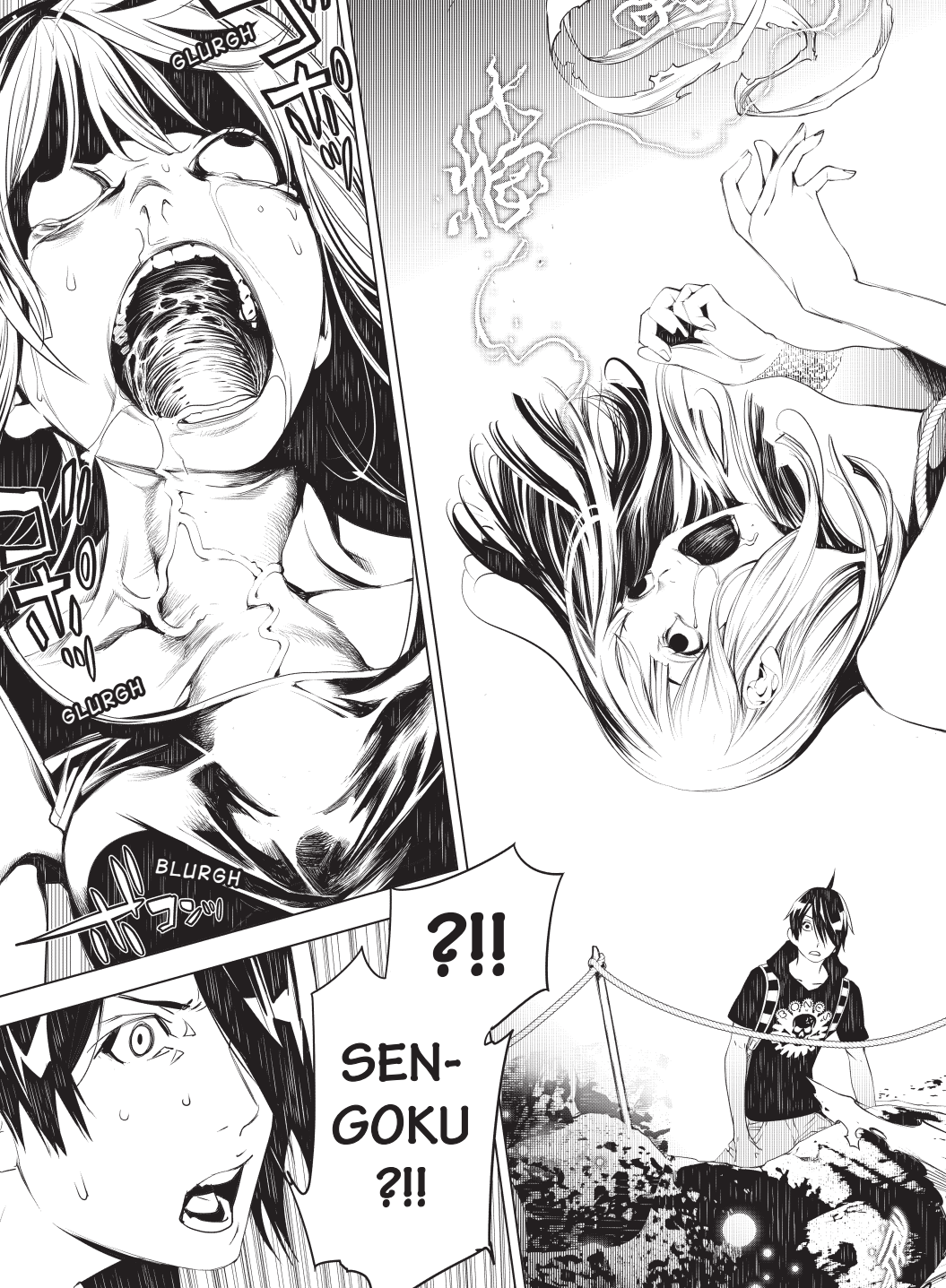
I...
...

If ever in your life you feel like it, Araragi...
All you have to do is abandon Shinobu and forget about her,
and you'll go back to being a full-fledged human.
Personally... I hope you don't forget that.
What Oshino was saying—it was pretty clear to me.
I'm no expert on aberrations or anything... And there's no reason to recklessly involve myself in *a place that's beyond my reach.*
Involving myself would just be plain irresponsible of me.


But
I...
...just can't forget about her.


But I'd never be able to separate myself from her either.
Shinobu and I... are never going to be brought together.

MY SENIOR ARAGI!!
TWITCH
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
GRRRRKK

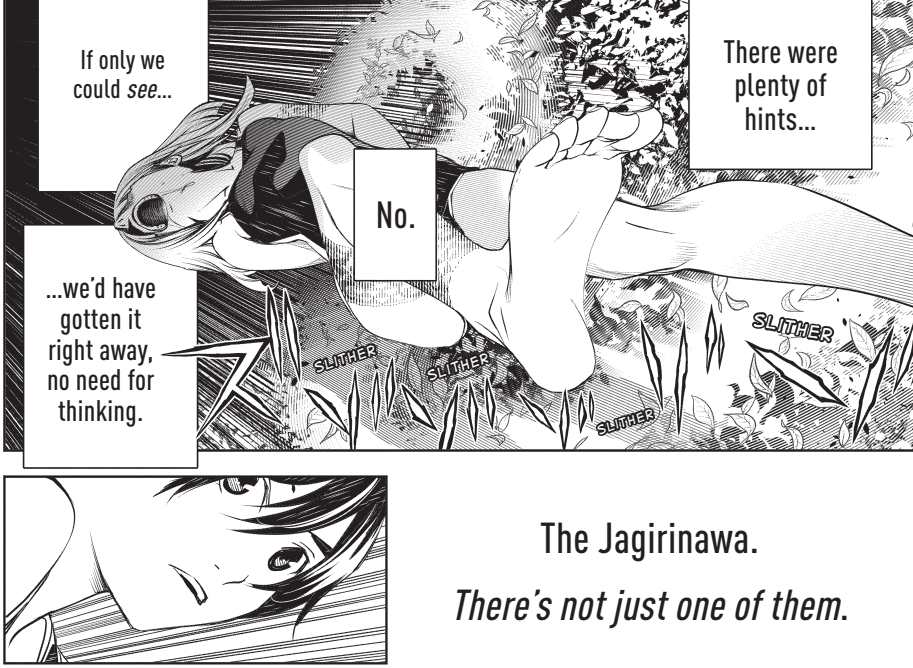

GLURGH
GLURGH
BLURGH
?!!
SEN-
GOKU
?!!

KLONG
FSSSSZT
SNAP

TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
GLURP
BLUGH
BLUGH
SGRRRCH
SGRRRCH
SGRRRCH
SPLURK
1: Thread is undone
2: Top spins

SNAP
Did ...
Did it fail?!
Did the purification ritual fail...and now it's running amok?!
No...
This ritual isn't supposed to be some risky stunt!!
This wasn't about brute force.
ZSSHH
Dammit! Why?! I don't understand!
This... shouldn't be happening ...!
It's a request ...!
This is a negotiation with an aberration...
GSST
In fact, until just seconds ago,
it was going so well—all until we were halfway in...!!
GSST
GSST

Half... way...?
...
Oh.
...only half of it.
But...
Half of it disappeared. That actually happened...
Dam-mit!!
If only I'd noticed earlier...!!
That's it...! That's what's happening!!
Why am I always such an idiot?!
What's wrong, my senior Araragi?!
The amulet Oshino gave me *did* work.
The snake had gone away—*to some-where.*
But... what if that amulet only had enough strength to deal with one serpent?



The Jagirinawa.

There's not just one of them.

Continued in Volume 8

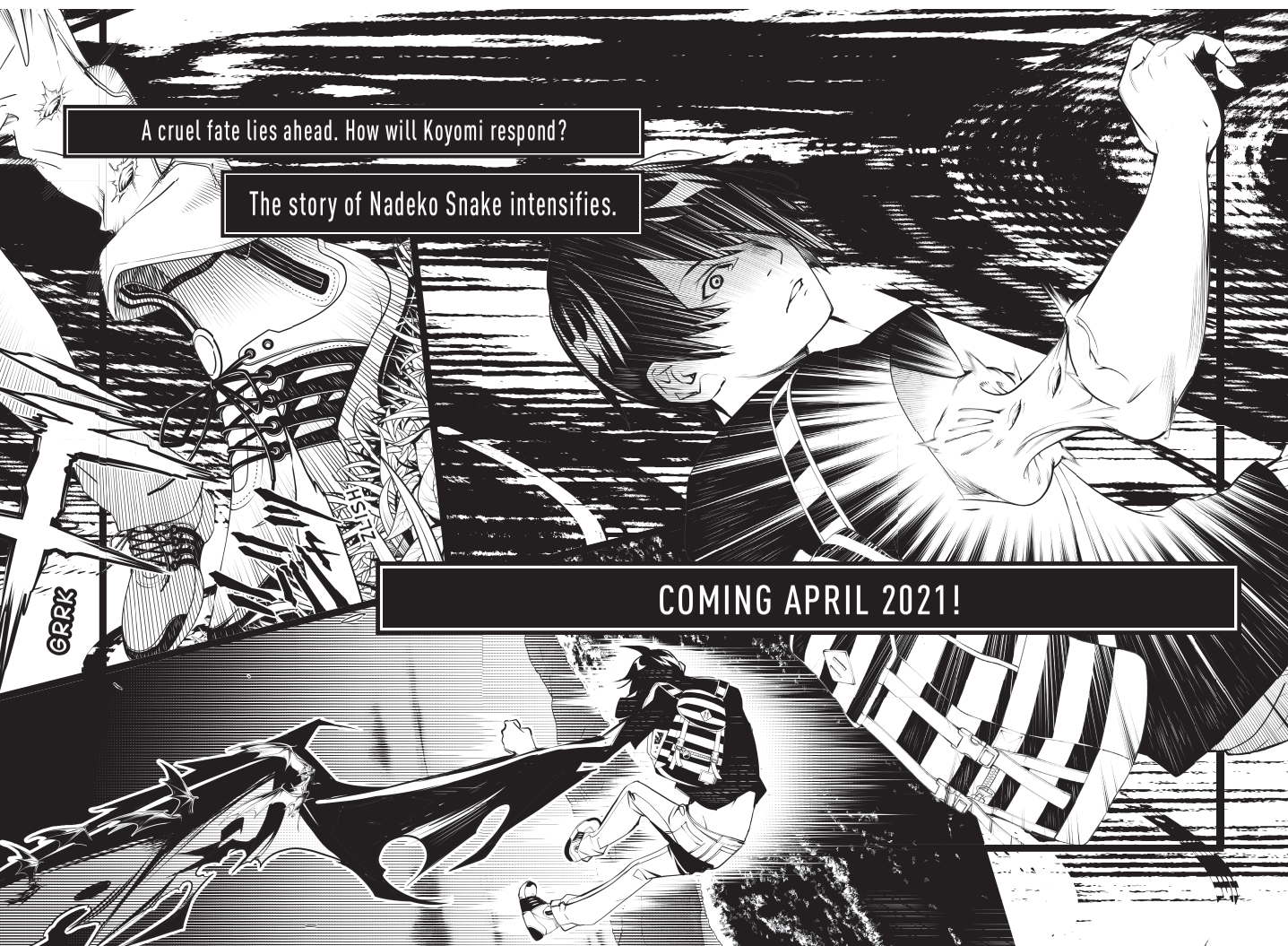
Next Volume Preview

BAKEMONOGATARI 8

The truth behind the Jagiriinawa entwined around Nadeko is discovered.

A direct confrontation with this aberration has become unavoidable.

BWOOP


A cruel fate lies ahead. How will Koyomi respond?
The story of Nadeko Snake intensifies.
HSH-ZZ
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BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 7

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